Daily Report

Latin America

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Winfa Expresses Concern Over EC Banana Decision

FL1102164893 Bridgetown CANA in English 1527 GMT 11 Feb 93

[By Corlita Ollivierre]

[Text] Kingstown, St. Vincent, Feb 11, CANA—The Windward Islands Farmers association (Winfa) has raised renewed concern over the future of the Caribbean banana industry following the failure Wednesday of European Community [EC] farm ministers to ratify a regime agreed to last December.

"This is a serious message as far as we are concerned in these islands. It is important that our leaders and the people in the banana associations themselves recognise the danger," Winfa programme officer, Renwick Rose told CANA.

European Community farm ministers were expected Wednesday to ratify the regime which proposes a tariff/quota on Latin American bananas which they agreed to last December and which should come into effect on July 1, this year. However, reports coming out of Brussels indicate that Germany, which is strongly opposed to the new regime, was able to harness enough opposition votes to form a blocking minority and prevent the ratification of the agreement. The Germans, who consume a third of European Community imports, want free trade in the fruit to keep their current cheaper Latin American prices.

"It shows us that even the limited agreement is still very much under threat and we have to be very serious about it," Rose said.

Some Latin American leaders are expected to meet this weekend with European Community officials to discuss the banana issue.

The Latins have threatened to take the matter to the General Agreement on Tariff and Trade (GATT) unless it is modified to favour them, and Germany is threatening to also take legal action to unravel the agreements.

Rose said that with price cuts already in effect in Grenada, Dominica, St. Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines, banana farmers are already producing below cost and would have to move out of banana production.

"What they get into and what we develop as a diversification programme is of critical importance," Rose argued. He said that the task of restructuring the banana industry was made more difficult by the shaky financial situation of the various banana associations.

"We have now to tighten our belts," Rose emphasised, adding that the sacrifices that would become necessary should be shared.

"Sacrifices must not be borne by the farmers alone. The people who market our bananas must learn that they have to take a cut in their profit margin. People who benefit from the industry must learn they also have to make sacrifices because we believe that it is not fair for the farmers alone to (bear) all the burdens of the sacrifice," Rose said.

Endara Says Canal Not To Close Despite EC Policy

PA1202003893 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Text] Following the signing of the Banana Declaration in Guayaquil, Ecuador, President Guillermo Endara left for Caracas, Venezuela, where he will attend a summit of Central American presidents with the Group of Three, which is formed by Venezuela, Mexico, and Colombia. During his stay in Ecuador, President Endara made statements to the media.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] Do the measures adopted by the EC merit [words indistinct]?

[Endara] They deserve the worst [lo peor], however, we cannot close down the canal. We cannot close down the canal because there is a multilateral agreement that was signed by almost all the countries of the world. I am sure Ecuador signed it. [end recording]

On the evening of 11 February a communique was issued as an annex to the final declaration. In the annex the Latin American countries strongly urge the European countries to maintain a position that will contribute to stability and to respect the multilateral trade system. If the restrictions imposed by the European countries are implemented, more than 500,000 people will lose their jobs throughout Latin America.

Banana Summit Issues 'Presidential Declaration'

PA1202005693 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1955 GMT 11 Feb 93

["Santiago de Guayaquil Presidential Declaration" read by Ecuadoran Foreign Relations Minister Diego Paredes Delgado in Guayaquil, Ecuador—live]

[Text] The presidents of Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Panama, and the Venezuelan and Mexican presidential delegates, inspired by the ministerial declarations of Santa Fe de Bogota and Santiago de Guayaquil, and who met in city of Santiago de Guayaquil on 11 February 1993, declare whereas:

On 17 December 1992, the EC Council of Agriculture Ministers proposed guidelines for future banana imports from Latin American countries, which are a setback even with respect to current restrictions that some member states apply to the import of bananas, based on a complex systems of tariffs, quotas, licenses, and conditions, and which establish a markedly protectionist, discriminatory, and restrictive regime for Latin America banana exports.

The proposed future restrictions not only violate GATT rules and Uruguay Round commitments, but contradict the principles of trade liberalization, repeatedly encouraged by the EC.

The headway and advances accomplished by Latin America in the liberalization of its markets and the training of qualified manpower, and in trade, technology, and investments, are based on the possibilities and commitments to open the world market to its exports, among which bananas are of special importance.

Notwithstanding GATT rulings, the EC has refused to hold discussions with Latin American countries regarding the new restrictions.

We therefore agree:

1. To reject the banana common market organization agreed to on 17 December 1992 and to reiterate our legitimate request for an EC market without restrictions for Latin American exports.

2. We demand that the restrictions that are adopted should guarantee current access levels of Latin American bananas to the European market and sustained growth of our exports. We demand that a trade scheme be established that takes into account our countries' production and trade structures and the tastes and preferences of the various European consumers.

3. We announce that the measure adopted by the EC Council of Agriculture Ministers affects the economies of our countries, limits their economic and social development, hurts the human rights of thousands of Latin American workers—basically their right to work—with an arbitrary and discriminatory measure that has the immediate effect of reducing a vigorous and growing trade.

4. Likewise, because bananas are a very important source of income, the text of that resolution places at risk the social and political stability of some of our countries, which are making enormous efforts to overcome the problems that face the process of democratic consolidation to overcome underdevelopment.

5. We demand from the EC compliance with the obligations imposed by GATT and the commitments of the Uruguay Round, particularly to give priority to the liberalization of products of special interest to developing countries, including tropical agricultural products.

6. We urge the EC to seek a fair solution that takes into account the interests of all the affected parties.

7. We reaffirm our decision to intensify the use of all ways and means possible within GATT to have our rights respected and unmask the illegality of the EC restrictions.

8. We announce that our countries consider that unilateral measures, such as the EC decision, endanger the successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round.

9. The presidents have decided to create a high-level political and technical commission to follow up on this declaration and agree on the policies, strategies, and necessary actions to achieve fairness in EC trade relations.

10. We thank the Latin American community for the solidarity given to our countries in the defense of the rules and principles that regulate the multilateral trade system.

11. We thank the Ecuadoran people, its government, and especially President Sixto Duran-Ballen, for summoning this summit, and entrust him to forward this declaration, in the name of Latin American banana exporting countries, to the EC authorities and to the heads of state and governments of the EC member states.

To attest to this, we sign this declaration in the city of Santiago de Guayaquil on 11 February 1993.

Countries Say EEC Violates Human Rights

PA1202033893 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 2300 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Text] Guayaquil—The presidents of seven Latin American countries reported on 11 February that the EEC hurts the human rights of thousands of Latin American workers by restricting banana imports.

The presidents said the EEC, by limiting banana imports, threatens the social and political stability of some area countries. The final statement from the summit held in Guayaquil reports that the EEC has refused to talk directly with Latin American countries to find a solution. The document says the EEC goal to impose a 2 million ton yearly quota on banana imports is discriminating, restrictive, and violates the GATT.

The presidents of Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama, Ecuador, and Colombia, and the special delegates of the Mexican and Venezuelan Governments, urged the EEC to find a balanced solution that takes into consideration the interests of every one of the parties involved.

Cuba

United States Said To Finance Counterrevolutionaries

PA1102155793 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Text] The 49th Assembly of the UN Human Rights Commission that initiated its work sessions in Geneva, Switzerland on 1 February will once again serve as a confrontational scenario for the diverse points of view on this issue. Washington has dragged the differences between Cuba and the United States to Geneva since the 46th Assembly of the UN Human Rights Commission. The administrations of Presidents Ronald Reagan and George Bush used the most recalcitrant Cuban exile organizations, deserters, former terrorists, and the so-called internal dissidents. These groups on the island call themselves defenders of human rights.

The Cuban weekly TRABAJADORES on 8 February published an illuminating article on the methods used by the United States to finance counterrevolutionary organizations both inside and outside Cuba. The Cuban unions publication pointed out that the NED [National Endowment for Democracy], which is the English acronym for the foundation in favor of democracy, has financed various counterrevolutionary activities since 1984. NED, which calls itself a private corporation, receives official funds from the U.S. Government. In 1991, $500,000 was earmarked to foster seven support projects for the so-called dissidents in Cuba. The weekly TRABAJADORES emphasized that it helps cover travel expenses of right-wing organization members, of Cuban exiles who contact legislators, party leaders, other political forces, and the media. The purpose of the trips is to draw a bleak picture of the citizens' rights situation in Cuba without having a U.S. spokesmen appear up front. A special UN rapporteur for human rights imposed by the United States and some of its allies to assess the island's respect of those rights is fed reports that are manipulated by the counterrevolutionaries stationed in Miami. That is how the diabolic tactic is applied. The United States finances the UN informants with the sole objective of discrediting the Cuban revolution. Geneva certainly has been a very enlightening scene.

Commentary Questions U.S. Role in Somalia

PA1102155693 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 11 Feb 93

["Commenting on the News" by Miguel Angel de la Guardia]

[Text] The concept of humanitarian military intervention is a spectacular play of words, in political rhetoric, following the downfall of the socialist community in East Europe. The marines have been presented as the UN guardian angels to guarantee the arrival of international humanitarian aid to the famished Somalis. They arrived in Somalia with their sophisticated combat equipment aboard impressive armored vehicles, the same way they were seen in Panama City in another, much less humanitarian intervention.

One part of the expedition has already been withdrawn from Somalia with the obvious intention to inspire positive public opinion, which has not failed to detect the hegemonic and arrogant nature of this intervention.

The role of international policemen—which is how the U.S. Armed Forces have always seen themselves—now has UN approval. It has always been an ambition of the imperial circles and of most reactionaries within the United States.

In the past, they intervened on a whim or on their own accord, without any justification other than force. Today they enjoy the open complicity of the top international organization, where socialist community representatives are no longer there—the powerful Soviet Union, which always was an important counterbalance, a respectable restraint in the face of the voracious Yankee imperialism. We are faced with a single-pole world, where the great western powers are comfortable.

In a world shaken by civilian conflicts and domestic wars that divide and subdivide peoples, the United States feels free to do whatever it wishes, but it has not convinced anyone and it never will. There are forces that oppose that imperial policy within the United States. The American Bar Association has said that the so-called right to humanitarian intervention is nothing more than an attempt to establish, under a different guise, old colonial practices. This is, supposedly, to try and bless what is simply the law of the strongest.

If we examine what has been accomplished in Somalia after the withdrawal of most of the U.S. forces, we see there can be no justification to the great deployment of land, air, and sea forces to take a bit of food, medicine, and temporary medical services to this suffering African country. The causes of hunger and poverty in Somalia have not been eliminated. Nothing has changed the spine-chilling image of skinny and sad children in the arms of mothers with squalid and empty breasts, who beg for help without understanding the reason for so much misfortune.

The invasion only served to create a precedent that will make less scandalous and shameful the presence of Yankee policemen, and so the eyes of the world become accustomed to seeing the marines everywhere, disguised as angelic emissaries of wellbeing, with the United Nations blessings.

Remember that in Korea, in 1950, the only UN representation was its blue and white flag, which the U.S. soldiers bore. Only small contingents from other countries served to feign the international character of that military intervention against socialist Korea. Something similar took place during the recent Gulf War.

If these humanitarian military intervention practices continue, we should not be surprised if one day the Yankees try and land in some country bearing the flag of the meritorious Red Cross.

Castro Inaugurates New Biophysical Medical Center

FL1102162293 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Text] On 10 February, President Fidel Castro inaugurated the Biophysical Medical Center, the leading institution of the Santiago de Cuba scientific hub. With this institution at the Oriente University, developing diagnostic equipment based on magnetic nuclear resonance and other high-demand medical, biotechnical, and pharmaceutical equipment in Cuba is now a possibility.

The leader of the revolution toured the center and praised the young group for their years of work in designing and building three modern machines, including the first Cuban scanner, a machine that photographs the interior of the human body with high precision, which unlike the computerized axial scanner, has no negative side effects and can produce various cross-sections of the cranium, spinal cord, and joints.

Before this, Fidel visited a new Santiago de Cuba hospital with more than 1,000 beds. There he observed the room where the scanner, built at the Biophysical Medical Center, is being prepared for operation. The first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] spoke cordially with the scientists and expressed his satisfaction with the student forces' decision to participate in the design, and even the construction, of the scanner. He also lauded the fact that most of the equipment used by health facilities in Havana and Santiago de Cuba was built by this institution and that another series is being constructed for extension throughout the rest of the country. Even though the scanner is valued at more than $1 million, the leader of the revolution emphasized, above all, its social function and its contribution in solving health problems.

Moments before leaving, Fidel signed a copy of the book, "History Will Absolve Me," in which he wrote that the Biophysical Medical Center is something that not only Santiago de Cuba Province, but the whole country can be proud of. He called for the creation of new dreams and beautiful realities for tomorrow. At the same time, he heartily congratulated hundreds of children, university students, men and women from the city, who greeted him when he left this research center. Accompanying Fidel on this tour were Politburo members Esteban Lazo, first PCC secretary of Santiago de Cuba, and Jose Ramon Balaguer, who along with Fidel were nominated as delegates to the National Assembly by Santiago de Cuba Province.

The Cuban president also paid particular attention to the water problems in Santiago de Cuba during an exchange with representatives of the government, the PCC, and specialists of the Provincial Hydraulic Resources Enterprise. Fidel pointed out that few cities have such a serious situation, but that he was satisfied with the emergency plan to minimize the effects. Reinaldo Endis, president of the government in Santiago de Cuba Province, said that thanks to the provision of medium- and long-term investments, they hope to stabilize the water supply within six months and double the current supply within 18 months. Nevertheless, Fidel insisted that this program be maintained at high priority, and called for future plans that take harsh weather conditions into consideration.

Next, as part of the electoral process, the top leader of the revolution met with the voters of the Jose Marti urban center and other deputy candidates. As part of his third day of visits, Fidel exchanged opinions with representative groups from the Santiago de Cuba scientific hub. He said the day will come when products derived from scientific research will hold first place in the national economy.

Castro Receives Honorary Doctorate From UASD

FL1102213193 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Text] In a solemn ceremony held at the City Hall of the government building in Santiago de Cuba, Julio Ravelo, the president of the Autonomous University of Santo Domingo [UASD], gave Commander in Chief Fidel Castro an honorary doctorate from that distinguished educational center.

In her tribute to Fidel, Ana Dolores Guzman, the dean of the Humanities Department at the UASD, stated that this degree recognizes the great accomplishments of the Cuban president as a brilliant statesman of the Americas and the world. For his part, President Julio Ravelo said the UASD considers the struggle of the Cuban people for justice, respect between the peoples, and peace as some of Fidel's merits.

As he thanked them for conferring such a high academic degree on him, the commander in chief noted the historical ties that join Cuba and the Dominican Republic. In his speech, Fidel evoked the figure of our national hero and his ideas, which have become part of the Latin American inheritance, to which the Dominican fighters also contributed. Finally, the president of the Cuban Councils of State and Ministers expressed thanks for the honor conferred on him and praised the courage of those who, in total defiance, are standing by the Cubans in this difficult situation.

[Begin Castro recording] President Ravelo and members of the council: I thank you deeply for the great honor that has been given to me. I admire the courage of your action and the defiance that it represents against the pressures and threats, veiled or open, exerted against anyone who dares to stand by us during such difficult and beautiful moments for the Cuban people. I reaffirm to you my

deep affection for the Dominican people and my profound conviction that nothing and nobody will ever be able to separate us, and that liberty, justice, and the future belong entirely to us. I will do everything I can to live up to the very high honor I have received today. Thank you very much. [applause] [end recording]

Lazo, Balaguer Accompany Castro on 4th Day of Tour

FL1202025293 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 12 Feb 93

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, the first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC], said the battle of today is that of 24 February, and that day will fill 26 July and Santiago de Cuba with glory. He said he was very moved at having met with more than 20,000 workers, farmers, professionals, and students, who have filled these meetings between candidates and voters in Santiago de Cuba Province with revolutionary effervescence and uniqueness. During the fourth day of his visit to Electoral District No. 7, for which he was nominated candidate for deputy, the commander in chief had another intense day of work today. But now we have our reporter Margarita Pecora on the phone with an exclusive report from Santiago de Cuba.

[Pecora] Good evening to all the listeners of Rebelde's "Exclusive" program. From El Canon to La Risuena, which is the same as saying from the mountains to the plains of Santiago de Cuba, Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, a candidate for deputy to the Cuban legislature for Electoral District No. 7, held meetings during his four-day tour with some 20,000 people, including farmers and residents of urban neighborhoods. The marvelous reality which [Alejo] Carpentier described was present in the spontaneous demonstrations of sympathy and revolutionary support the people of District No. 7 gave to the leader of the Revolution. These demonstrations were enough to ensure that in spite of the difficult and bitter times the nation is experiencing, Santiago is and will continue to be the moral capital of the Revolution.

Today, friends, was the fourth day of a tour by candidate for deputy Fidel of the Jose Marti urban community, where a sea of enthusiastic people showed their support, faithfulness, and respect and promised to appear at the polling stations early on 24 February to vote for all the candidates, which is certainly what is best for the nation and the Revolution.

Accompanied by Politburo member Esteban Lazo, the PCC first secretary for the province; Politburo member Jose Ramon Balaguer Cabrera; and scientist Carlos Cabal (?Miraval)—all candidates for deputy to the National Assembly of the People's Government—Fidel visited the Manuel Isla Perez Semi-Boarding Primary School, which has more than 1,200 students enrolled. There, the precocity of a fifth-grade Pioneer Fernando Luis Rojas won everyone's heart, as he carried on a moving conversation with the commander in chief during which he showed an almost complete understanding of the election process underway and answered all the other questions put to him by the leader of the Revolution, who recognized him as a genuine product of the Cuban schools and the Revolution's work.

Speaking to the residents of Jose Marti Mini-District No. 7, Fidel confirmed the revolutionary spirit he had found in Santiago de Cuba, in line with the upcoming elections, and said that it could not be otherwise since they were residents of Cuba's city of heroes. Fidel was pursued—rather than followed—by an almost delirious crowd of people who ran after his motorcade from one set of buildings to another, eager to continue seeing him and showing him their affection with shouts and slogans. Thus, in the midst of an avalanche of an uncountable number of people, the commander in chief reached Mini-Districts No. 9 and 10 and La Risuena neighborhood, all of whose residents had smiles on their faces during Fidel's last and most unforgettable meeting with the voters of District No. 7, for which he was nominated candidate for deputy to the Cuban legislature.

Health Accord Signed With Dominican Institute

FL1202134593 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 12 Feb 93

[Text] Patients from the Dominican Republic will receive highly specialized medical treatment in Cuba as result of a cooperation accord which was signed in Havana between health institutions of the two countries. The document was signed by Rafael Villanueva, the president of the board of directors of the Social Security Institute of the Dominican Republic, and Jorge Antelo, the first vice Public Health minister of Cuba. The accord also provides for maintenance and repair of medical equipment, as well as help by Cuban professionals in the training of Dominican personnel.

Inter-Caribbean Affairs

OAS Official Urges Caribbean To Access Services

FL1102173293 Bridgetown CANA in English 1607 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Text] Kingstown, St. Vincent, Feb 11, CANA—Assistant secretary-general of the Organisation of American States (OAS) Dr. Christopher Thomas is suggesting that Caribbean Community (Caricom) countries work to maximise the services which can be had from the hemispheric body. Speaking in an interview in the St. Vincent capital, Kingstown, where a major OAS conference is taking place, Thomas told CANA that some Caricom countries were still learning how to access OAS benefits. He said a combination of approaches would usefully serve their purpose, and "as they understand more how to access the benefits of the organisation, they would make more requests and demands, and I think that is happening." Thomas held separate sessions Tuesday

with Caricom heads of delegations attending the conference, and he indicated this was one area of discussion undertaken.

"More and more, this has to be a prority within the sub-region so that the optimisation of the benefits can be secured." Caribbean countries have reportedly been very critical at the conference with certain aspects of the workings of the OAS specifically dealing with the delivery of services.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines foreign affairs minister, Herbert Young, who said he was expressing sentiments of regional governments, voiced concern over gaps in communication, fund disbursement, and national evaluative mechanisms for OAS technical assistance programmes and projects. He also noted that there was a continuing reduction in the organisation's voluntary fund which supports the bulk of technical assistance programmes. Thomas agreed that this had negatively affected programmes and projects which some Caribbean countries had targeted for implementation, but noted that it was necessary to make a distinction between budgeting for projects and being able to deliver the resources to implement these. Certain positions being expressed at the conference, he said, had led him to conclude that the distinction was not too clear.

"You may programme for whatever you need, but if the resources are not available, and the very governments cannot come up with these resources, then what you have is a diminution in the capacity to deliver what you have programmed for."

On the question of condescending treatment of Caribbean countries within the OAS as charged by one ambassador, Thomas said he did not believe this to be the case, but noted that in the process of interaction among member states, it was possible that some persons may have perceived this attitude.

"Caricom has joined an organisation where there are certain ground rules and certain historic perceptions. We must seek to understand these things ... and work with them in the process of developing a new set of rules and procedures that will accommodate our own cultural situation within the larger organisation," he said. "We cannot presume that the larger membership will simply accept to change in terms of what the smaller membership and the more recent membership postulates. It has to be a give and take." Certain positions being expressed at the conference, he said, had led him to conclude that the distinction was not too clear.

Haiti

UN Mission Chief Caputo Comments on Situation

PY1202130993 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1342 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Text] Buenos Aires, 11 Feb (NA)—Dante Caputo, UN mission chief on Haiti, believes that "in four months we should conclude the negotiations" with the de facto Haitian Government for that country "to go back to the democratic process and for the constitutional president to return."

Caputo said: "Just the fact that an agreement was reached in the country to send a mission of about 200 civilians to take control of the internal situation already is very important."

Caputo, former foreign minister under the Radical Civic Union administration, said this group will have the objective of keeping "control over the situation of violence and human rights in the country."

Caputo, who talked on the phone from the United States to Radio America, said: "The clear objective is to start a political dialogue to loosen up the general situation."

He added: "Pacification is necessary because last year alone 3,000 people were killed in Haiti for political reasons."

Regarding the aggressive demonstration held by the supporters of the Haitian Government during his recent trip to the island, Caputo said: "It was a delicate situation because the demonstration organized by the government included obvious serious threats, which fortunately disappeared right away."

Caputo said: "The demonstrations were hard because they were aimed at putting pressure on the negotiations." He added that the demonstrations were dissolved when he told officials that "under those conditions the dialogue would not continue one more minute."

Caputo also said he will return to Argentina next week and he then will "continue with his activities."

Belizaire Sees Mission as Step Toward Solution

FL1102210693 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1145 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Text] Senator Dejean Belizaire, whose reelection is rejected by his colleagues, thinks that a step has been taken in the search for a solution to the political crisis. For Belizaire, the acceptance of the civilian mission falls within the responsibility of the consensus government.

[Begin recording, in Creole] [Belizaire] I believe the government has acted within the boundaries of the mandate that it received from the Armed Forces of Haiti; the executive power, represented by President Nerette; and the legislative power. Obviously, all I can say is that, at the parliamentary level, we have not yet received the official text to see what exactly has been done. We know the government has this mandate, among others, to resume negotiations and that is what has been done.

[Unidentified reporter] Do you think this agreement will be submitted to the chamber?

[Belizaire] We think that, in a broad manner, what has been done by the executive power, must be submitted for the approval of the parliament. Now, I do not think that everything will go one after the other, but we think that generally the parliament will have to reach a decision regarding what is done by the executive power. The parliament does not yet have the text of this agreement. I heard it, but to tell the truth, when I look at history, I know that other missions have come already to the country and I do not think the country's sovereignty was threatened. [end recording]

Opposition Encourages Normalization of Senate Relations

FL1102222793 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Text] In the parliament, the senators of the constitutionalist bloc are attempting to encourage those of the pro-governmental alliance to join them for a normalization of the situation in the Senate. During a news conference on 10 February, the president of the office led by the constitutionalist bloc, Senator Firmin Jean-Louis, said they are open to dialogue. However, the senatorial opposition maintains its position regarding the nine newly elected at the senate. They asserted that these people could not be part of the Senate. Ansy-Rose Resignac filed a report.

[Begin recording] [Resignac] If the opposition Senate remains absolute on the question of the elections, they could on the other hand, accept a compromise which would allow a solution to the conflict between the two offices. When asked whether he was willing to accept the formation of a new consensus office that would include senators issued from both political blocs, Senator Firmin Jean-Louis answered: We are very open.

[Jean-Louis] We are always open. We have been open. We are and we will always be, my friend. We only assumed our responsibilities by electing a new office. It was imperative. We had to do it because the Senate was unable to work for three to four months. So we did it. However, we will consider everything that can be done legally and constitutionally, as long as it can contribute to alleviating the situation. We are always open. We are not as stiff as a poker like some people seem to have behaved during the past months.

[Resignac] On 10 February, in order to allow the resumption of activities in the parliament, the Senate office, led by the constitutionalist bloc, asked the senators of the Alliance for the Parliamentary Cohesion to join them. Recalling that it is never too late to do well, the opposing senators considered that such a gesture would help the pro-government senators to be recorded with honor in history. The constitutionalist bloc does not intend however to give up its position regarding the partial legislative elections on 18 January. They will not sit with the senators elected from that activity; organized, according to them, in violation of the constitutional provisions.

[Unidentified senator] As for the other citizens, appointed in the pseudo elections on 18 January, refused by the people and not recognized by the international community and held under many totally unacceptable conditions, they could not be part of the Senate without having the Senate diminished in its legitimacy and credibility. May those citizens show proof of self-respect by withdrawing honorably and by presenting themselves at the right moment to normal, legal, and constitutional elections.

[Resignac] The office of the opposition said it had rejected on 9 February, the approach of three senators from the office led by the Alliance, asking them to relinquish the Senate office. Senator Firmin Jean-Louis also announced that the Senate will inform the UN/OAS envoy, Dante Caputo, of the judgment of censure taken against Prime Minister Marc Bazin. According to him, Marc Bazin was no longer authorized to take part in the negotiations as prime minister. He finally said that talks are being held with the office of the Chamber of Deputies for a new session in national assembly. [end recording]

Military Arrest 15 Students at Demonstration

FL1102230593 Port-au-Prince Radio Tropic FM in French 1930 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Text] At noon, the students at the medical school demonstrated inside the school against the current authorities and for the return of democracy in the country. The students were beating pots and were writing hostile slogans aimed at the dean, Gerard Bissainthe. There were more than 15 arrests.

A press release was issued stating: The central committee of the students of the School of Medicine, Pharmacy, and Medical Technology inform the national and international community that on 11 February at approximately 1200, military personnel in blue uniforms entered the grounds and the hospital of the National University of Haiti. They arrested and took away more than 15 students who were peacefully demonstrating against the arbitrary measures of the de facto president of the National University of Haiti. The central committee raises a strong protest against this new act of barbarity and demands the immediate and unconditional release of the students.

It calls on the solidarity of the entire university community to thwart this infernal machine that is attacking the university. Up with the solidarity of all the students! Up with the university's autonomy! Down with repression!

Human Rights Groups Accuse Army of Torture

FL1202131893 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1100 GMT 12 Feb 93

[Text] Two human rights groups, Americas Watch and the National Coalition for Haitian Refugees accuses the Haitian Army of using torture to systematically crush all opposition to Haiti's de facto government. The report

was based on testimonies of 250 Haitians intereviewed by the two groups. Meanwhile, Haitian hunger strikers, held at Guantanamo Bay Naval Base in Cuba, continue without food, they say, until they are released.

Trinidad and Tobago

Union Leaders Dissatisfied With Government Meeting

FL1202001793 Bridgetown CANA in English 2138 GMT 11 Feb 93

[By Linda Hutchinson]

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, Feb 11, CANA—Union leaders in Trinidad and Tobago said Thursday that they were dissatisfied with the outcome of a meeting with government ministers over the proposed retrenchment of more than 3,000 workers at three public utilities. Roland Graham, the president of the Public Services Association (PSA) told CANA that the ministers were not serious about discussing alternatives to retrenchment.

"They came talking about retrenchment as if it simply involved numbers on a page. We see it as a very social problem, causing further unemployment, poverty, and homelessness," he remarked.

The unions plan the second mass protest in eight days through the streets of Port of Spain, scheduled to end outside the Red House, seat of the country's Parliament. Several thousand workers marched last Friday to protest against the non-payment of a wages debt owed to them.

The unionists contend that the government plans to retrench some 600 workers at the Public Transport Services Corporation (PTSC), 1,200 at the Port Authority, and 1,500 at the Water and Sewerage Authority (WASA) by the middle of the month. The unions under their umbrella body, the National Trade Union Centre (Natuc) met on Wednesday with an interministerial team comprising Finance Minister Wendell Mottley, Planning Minister Dr. Lenny Saith, Energy Minister Barry Barnes, and Education Minister Augustus Ramrekersingh.

The government said that "in times of plenty", government funds were used to mask fundamental weaknesses in the operations of the public utilities. Last year, WASA, the port and PTSC chalked up losses collectively totalling 342 million dollars (1 TT dollar = 23.5 U.S. cents).

In full page advertisments in the daily newspapers on Wednesday and Thursday, the Finance Ministry said that the cost of production in each case of the utilities was significantly high and the rates payable by customers were unrealistically low. It added that the wages and salaries bill of each of the utilities exceeded its gross revenues, thereby requiring substantial government subsidies.

"The basic truth is that the government is no longer in a financial position to continue to support these utilities by such massive subsidies," the Finance Ministry said.

The PSA's Graham said that the unions were willing to consider an attractive voluntary separation package.

"They (workers) appeared to agree that this would be the way to go," he said, adding that the unions were not prepared to sit down and discuss retrenchment. "That is not a creative option."

Selwyn John, the president-general of the country's largest union, the National Union of Government and Federated Workers Union (NUGFWU) described the talks with the government team as a "farce."

"It cannot produce results. They already have their agenda," he told CANA.

John, whose union represents over 40,000 government-paid workers, said workers at WASA were very defiant about keeping their jobs.

"I wouldn't be surprised if they close down WASA," he said. "They are fed-up with the politicking."

Albert Aberdeen, the president-general of the Transport and Industrial Workers Union, said that he was disappointed in the unwillingness of the ministerial team to listen to the requests by the union leaders. Aberdeen said he and other leaders requested that there be a suspension of the government's retrenchment plans.

"What they have agreed to is to take to cabinet another request to withdraw the deadline for the notices of the voluntary termination which were given to workers at WASA.

"We're told that after the deadline date, if they did not meet their target number, retrenchment notices would then be served by 18 February," he said. Aberdeen said that bus workers were prepared to resist any compulsory retrenchment by the government.

Guatemala

Appeals Court Confirms Ochoa Ruiz Extradition Denial

PA1102152393 Guatemala City SIGLO VEINTIUNO in Spanish 10 Feb 93 p 8

[Text] The 10th Court of Appeals on 9 February declared inadmissible a petition filed by the Attorney General's Office for clarification and expansion of the decision not to extradite former Lieutenant Colonel Carlos Rene Ochoa Ruiz, who is sought by the United States on charges of importing 500 kg of cocaine.

According to the ruling, the court has nothing to explain or expand upon because its confirmation of the extradition denial contains no ambiguous points.

The Attorney General's Office, however, believes extradition would help determine whether elements exist that would allow Ochoa Ruiz to be prosecuted in the United States on drug trafficking charges without establishing whether he was already being prosecuted for the same crimes, as the court in question did.

The Attorney General's Office considered filing an injunction against the 10th Court of Appeals to establish the legality of its actions.

The Attorney General's Office also pointed out that the case of Arnoldo Vargas Estrada, former mayor of Zacapa, set a precedent because he was extradited although he was being prosecuted in a court in that eastern town.

In accordance with procedures, the security forces captured Lt. Col. Ochoa Ruiz, Second Commander Hugo Leonel Perez Franco, and Artillery Captain Jose Mario Flores Montes on 18 December 1990.

The three were sent to the War Judge Advocate's Office for trial, while the U.S. Embassy requested Ochoa's extradition for trial in a U.S. court.

Soldiers in Michael Devine Case Present Appeal

PA1202045193 Guatemala City SIGLO VEINTIUNO in Spanish 11 Feb 93 p 12

[Text] On 10 February, the 11 soldiers under investigation for their involvement in the death of U.S. citizen Michael Vernon Devine presented an appeal before the Fourth Appeals Court requesting that the 5 March hearing be made public.

The Second Instance Court rejected the request due to shortcomings in the manner the request was filed. The court proceeded to order adjustment in the request so that the court can accept it.

Nicaragua

Unidentified Group Destroys Aeroflot Offices

PA1102142093 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1154 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Text] Managua, 11 Feb (ACAN-EFE)—An unidentified group destroyed the offices of Russian airline Aeroflot in Managua using a sledgehammer, according to Aeroflot manager Vladimir Stoupines.

The businessman described the incident "as a terrorist act against a private institution" and estimated the property damage at $10,000, according to Managua LA PRENSA newspaper.

The police had not verified or denied the report. Stoupines said the unidentified individuals demolished the concrete columns, seismic beams, and other structures and stole materials.

The Aeroflot offices are located in Plaza Espana in Managua.

The Russian airline had announced a few days earlier that starting on 18 February it would include a new air route between Managua and Havana.

Management said it would not accuse anyone and did not speculate on who staged the attack. It simply said "the police knows about the incident."

* Commentary Notes Continued Sandinist Power

93CA0058D Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 13 Jan 93 p 12

[Commentary by Jose Joaquin Quadra S.]

[Text] When I heard, on 29 December, that by presidential decision, the Presidency of the Republic had ordered the "safeguarding" of the National Assembly, I thought it was a joke dating back to the day before [28 December is Nicaragua's April Fool's Day], and I associated the news with that of two years before, which had reported General Ortega's resignation.

It did not take me long to realize that the military intervention in the congress was another one of those continuing mammoth errors, in the hard fight for control of the legislative branch.

I began a cold analysis of what this Sandinist control over the National Assembly's agenda and leadership could mean. I immediately associated it with the other powers of the Republic and the result was frightening. Sandinists are not governing from the bottom, as they had promised, but instead from the top and from all sides, and with the enormous advantage that this time it will be the executive authority who will be responsible for the loss of prestige and of image and credibility.

With no claim to being a great mathematician, my reckoning indicated that majority control of the judiciary authority is Sandinist. This assertion is confirmed by the court's verdict on the appeal for annulment of the 2 September session and the impunity being accorded to very serious crimes, robberies, and continuous violence, and to countless cases of unjust confiscations awaiting resolution.

The electoral authority has a Sandinist president and a Sandinist majority. The executive branch keeps its arms for the enforcement of law and order—the police and the Army—in Sandinist hands. Incredible though it may seem, the Directorate of the State Security Office, an apparatus that we all hoped would have disappeared on the afternoon of 25 April 1990, remains under control of the Sandinists. The Central Bank, the agency that formulates and promulgates the country's credit policy, is in the hands of a Sandinist. The Ministry of Energy, a vital factor in the determination of the country's future development, is also in the hands of a Sandinist. And more Sandinists have been added in the new composition of the cabinet, further confirming and aggravating this situation.

Thus, one vital objective remained: control of the National Assembly, as a bastion for preventing the reform of the previous regime's anachronistic laws that are obstructing the democratic process.

The big question is: Will all of this be conducive to the desired stability?

In theory, all the foregoing—that is, the fact that a Sandinist may occupy some important job in the executive—would not be so bad, because there are honest Sandinists. I know for a fact that there are. The point is that, in February 1992, the people did not vote for it, and much less in the above-mentioned proportions. Aside from this, the Sandinists have shown, thus far, that in practice, they do not keep their promises. Furthermore, to prevent stability and an economic upturn, and to be able to show that the disaster of their previous administration was due solely to external factors, they have also torpedoed the government's austerity program, without considering the contributions and grants received.

The other point that must be made is that the occupation of the National Assembly will undoubtedly stymie any initiative concerning the problem of property rights and the Army. These are basic factors in the way of attainment of the yearned-for supremacy of a state governed by law as the cornerstone of Nicaragua's reconstruction.

I must acknowledge that this commentary would not be entirely valid without pointing out that the UNO [United Nicaraguan Opposition] was also responsible, in part, for all of this. On the one hand, the UNO was unable to propound a strategy capable of foreseeing the corruptness of some of its representatives, with the resulting loss of the majority it needed to retain in the Assembly. On the other hand, the UNO was unable to hold together its forces and demonstrate that it deserved this representativeness as the majority. This manifest incapability of the UNO made it possible, in part, for all of this to take place.

And now, this takeover of the National Assembly compels me to adduce as proof the conversation in which former President Ortega informed Cardinal Obando that, in the event President of the Republic Violeta Chamorro were unable to govern the country, they would take over the government, legally, through the National Assembly. Consequently, all that has happened is but a preamble to the fulfillment of such ominous signals.

There does remain a final thought by way of invitation to finding a real way out of the deep crisis that now besets Nicaragua and its incipient democracy. Sandinism must understand that it lost the elections and must try to play the role that the popular vote assigned to it in the last elections: the role of opposition party, while still pressing onward toward the future. This is not a call to exclude the Sandinists, nor to persecute them, because that would mean committing again the very serious mistake they themselves committed. On the contrary, it is a call to join forces, in the proportion dictated by the electoral mandate, hand in hand with justice and legality, to reconstruct Nicaragua.

* Aleman Appears To Gain in Power Struggle

93CA0058B Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 2 Jan 93 p 4

[Commentary by Adolfo Miranda Saenz]

[Text] Nicaragua is the only country in the world in which no political party is the governing party.

The 14 political parties that comprised the UNO [United Nicaraguan Opposition] established its Policy Advisory Board, to which—so they thought and intended—President Violeta Chamorro would submit her decisions for approval. President Chamorro, closely advised by her son-in-law, Tono Lacayo, compared that Policy Advisory Board to the FSLN's [Sandinist National Liberation Front's] National Directorate, to which Daniel Ortega subjected himself throughout his mandate.

In effect, during the Sandinist administration, Nicaragua was governed by the Directorate's nine "comandantes." Daniel Ortega had to submit to the decisions of his fellow members of the National Directorate, with whom he disagreed on occasions, but whose decisions he carried out.

According to the Nicaraguan Constitution, the governing authority is vested in the president of the Republic, and not in the leadership of the party that carried its candidate to that office. Dona Violeta, anchoring her approach in this constitutional precept, refused to subject her decisions to the UNO's Policy Advisory Board.

Under the mantle of the Constitution, she sidelined Vice President Virgilio Godoy from the government, because of his close ties to the UNO's Policy Advisory Board. The Constitution stipulates that the vice president of the Republic shall exercise the functions delegated to him or her by the president. Thus, if the president delegates nothing to the vice president, the vice president has no function whatever, unless it be to await the death, resignation, or incapacity of the president, to assume the president's functions.

A group of politicians of what was the UNO, including the so-called Deputies of the Center, individually back Dona Violeta, but no party, as such, is the governing party.

This is because in Nicaragua Dona Violeta does not belong to any party. Neither does her son-in-law and principal adviser, Tono Lacayo. Were Dona Violeta to belong to any party, and fail to take it into account in her decisions, the result would be a distancing between the person of the president of the Republic and her party. But in the present case, there is no president's party.

Although the Constitution permits the president to appoint any citizen, regardless of party affiliation, presidents usually choose their immediate collaborators from within their own parties. But since Dona Violeta does not have a party, this is not currently the case.

Had the UNO Policy Advisory Board not sought to impose its will on Dona Violeta, she probably would have appointed her ministers from among the politicians who formed the coalition of parties that carried her as their candidate. In that case, we would now have a governing coalition of parties. The mistake the UNO politicians made was to underestimate the lady, thinking that because she was a politically inexperienced "housewife" they would be able to manage her. In this scheme of things, the "strong man" would have been Vice President Virgilio Godoy, with Dona Violeta's role reduced practically to that of "honorary president."

They did not reckon with the intelligence of Antonio Lacayo, or the political shrewdness of Alfredo Cesar (initially allied with Dona Violeta and with Tono), both of whom advised Dona Violeta to take the reins of government in hand and not allow the UNO's equivalent of a "National Directorate" to be imposed on her.

Faced by this reality, the UNO fell apart at the very first session of the new National Assembly. The "radicals" squared off against the "violeteros" [supporters of President Chamorro], who at the time were headed by Alfredo Cesar. Later, Cesar turned on Dona Violeta and his brother-in-law Tono Lacayo. Thinking that a change of hats would improve his political future, he joined the opposition to Dona Violeta's government. Tono was stealing the show from him, and Cesar needed to return to center stage.

Actually, the radicals, Godoy-ists as well as Cesar-ists (the bloc opposed to Dona Violeta that is part of what was once the UNO), are and have been the regime's most important opposition since the start. It makes no sense whatever, therefore, for Alfredo Cesar to threaten to convert "the UNO" (which no longer exists as such) into the opposition, since those remnants of the UNO have been the opposition for the past three years.

Throughout this political jousting, the Sandinists have played a very rare role for a party that was defeated in an election. They became the government's main political support. Were it not for a few minor contradictions, it might almost be said that the FSLN became, from the very start, the governing party.

Politically, this has cost the Sandinists a pretty penny, since the popular sectors that have been the Sandinists' main support are now being hit by the government's economic policy, whose backing by the Sandinist Front they resent. The front's "opposition" to the economic measures is very timid at best. It has not presented an alternative or different plan—among other things, of course, because there is none, nor is there any possibility in view, for the time being, of developing one at the Latin American level.

What is the outlook? With the population growing ever more impoverished, the government is eroding. Cesar, defeated in the National Assembly and ignored by the other national power centers, is losing political power. Virgilio Godoy, is all but forgotten. And as for the Sandinists, because of their support of the government, in addition to their widely commented abuses and errors, but mostly because of their failure to define a clearcut social and economic policy line, they are losing grass-roots support.

Meanwhile, as he increasingly distances himself from Cesar and Godoy (with whom he once formed the "group of three," now down to two), Arnoldo Aleman goes around inaugurating parks, streets, and fountains, chalking up points in a far from negligible sector of future voters. Whether the Managua Mayoralty's revenues are much higher than the sums being invested by Aleman, or are really being administered honestly, is a question being asked by many, but that is another story.

Objective political analysis, regardless of my personal preferences, leads me to conclude that the one who is gaining points, while all the others are losing them, is Aleman.

It follows from this conclusion that a "political truce" is necessary, not only for the good of the country, but to avoid erosion of the sectors mired in a struggle that is harmful to them and their 1996 objectives.

Analysis also leads me to conclude that, given the erosion of the government and of the current political parties, and given the public's disenchantment, and the lack of credibility being engendered by today's politicians, the new political forces that may be emerging have good possibilities for 1996, when not a few voters will want to support something truly new and different.

*** Validity of Various Property Laws Explained**

93CA0058A Managua BARRICADA in Spanish
2 Jan 93 p 9

[Commentary by Enrique Aleman Flores, lawyer and notary]

[Text] Laws 85, 86, and 88 were promulgated by the National Assembly during the final months of the previous government, with the object of legalizing the de facto and de jure possession of urban and rural properties bestowed during the years of revolutionary government.

The legality, validity, and implementation of these laws have been the object of heated debates and discussions by the legislative and executive authorities, and by reactionary sectors of the right, such as the COSEP [Higher Council of Private Enterprise], and parties of the extinct UNO [United Nicaraguan Opposition].

In the National Assembly, deputies headed by Alfredo Cesar, promulgated Law 133, which sought to derogate the mentioned laws and, consequently, to abolish the revolutionary achievements. The law was vetoed by the president of the Republic, Violeta Barrios de Chamorro.

The executive authority, through the presidency, has been pursuing a negative policy that has not in any way benefited the owners of lands under the mentioned laws. On the contrary, it has promulgated decree-laws that have obstructed absolute dominion. That policy bows to the pressures being exerted by the Government of the United States seeking the return of the properties in question to the former followers of Somoza, some of whom are labeled "American citizens." To this end, it has issued various decrees, which we enumerate as follows:

a) Decree 11-90, the so-called "Decree-Law on Review of Confiscations," based on which the executive authority created the National Review Commission, whose resolutions have the force of law, to ensure the return of the properties in question to their former owners, who are considered to have clear title, with compliance to be ensured through use of the public forces of order.

b) The resolutions mentioned in subparagraph a) above, which are contained in Articles 7 and 11 of the said decree, were declared unconstitutional by verdict of the Most Excellent Supreme Court of Justice, rendering them null and void, nonexistent.

c) Sticking to her guns, and seeking to impart legal life to the provisions declared unconstitutional, the president issued Decree 23-91.

d) Decrees 35-91 and 36-91, it is true, recognize, on the one hand, that Laws 85 and 86 had "their desired legal effect," but, on the other hand, they create instruments that in effect contradict this affirmation, such as the imposition of a "land use clearance" requirement (through the OOT [Office of Land Use Management]) lacking which, according to the decree, titles to land issued under Laws 85 and 86 are not legally valid. These decrees are unconstitutional, and suits have been filed against them in the Most Excellent Supreme Court of Justice, inasmuch as they violate Articles 38, 130, 183, and 150 of the Constitution.

e) Decree 48-92 expands the functions and powers of the OOT.

f) Decree 47-92 reinstates the Review Commission for the purpose of deciding on the legitimacy or not of the titles issued under Laws 85, 86, and 88.

The purpose of this article is to inform the citizens in general, and in particular those benefiting under Laws 85, 86, and 88, of the following:

1. Laws 85, 86, and 88 are genuine laws of the Republic, promulgated by the previous National Assembly. They were not the object of any resort whatever to unconstitutionality. They were published in LA GACETA, the official journal, and made known to all the inhabitants of the Republic, and compliance with them is mandatory. Therefore, the possession and right of ownership, which those laws legitimated, are the personal property of the beneficiaries of those laws, by virtue of the rights guaranteed by the Constitution.

2. The Office of Land Management (OOT) created by the mentioned decrees is an administrative agency that neither denies rights nor grants them, and has neither empowerment not jurisdiction entitling it to determine whether the titles bestowed by Laws 85, 86, and 88 are legitimate or not, inasmuch as this function is the province of the courts having jurisdiction.

3. The reinstated Review Commission is another administrative agency that also has neither empowerment nor jurisdiction, and the resolutions issued by the tribunals of that agency are devoid of validity, by virtue of the ruling handed down by the Supreme Court of Justice.

The rights of possession and ownership lawfully acquired by the Nicaraguans, and in particular as regards those acquired in accordance with Laws 85, 86, and 88, are protected by common law and the Constitution.

Article 1732 C. stipulates: "The possessor is entitled to be protected or reinstated in his or her possession, against any breach or dispossession." Article 1737 C. stipulates: "If possession has been continuous for more than one year, the possessor shall be summarily maintained or reinstated, as long as he or she is not defeated in a suit involving ownership."

Article 617 C. stipulates: "No person shall be deprived of his or her property, except by virtue of the law or by verdict based on the law."

Article 198 of the Constitution stipulates: "The existing body of laws shall remain in effect insofar as it concerns all that does not conflict with the present Constitution, as long as those laws are not modified."

The Nicaraguans who acquired rights of possession and dominion under Laws 85, 86, and 88 cannot in any way be deprived of them, unless it be by final judicial verdict handed down by the courts of common law.

* New Economic Measures Deemed Recessionary

93CA0058C Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 13 Jan 93 p 11

[Commentary by Adolfo Jose Acevedo Vogl]

[Text] For the second year in a row, the government has announced the start of an economic upturn. The instruments it posits for this revival consist of a nominal exchange movement on the order of 20 percent, followed by a system of gradual daily change, the implementation of a program of public investment that is for the most part a carryover from 1992, and the maintenance of practically the same level of revolving credit for production.

These measures are to be offset by substantial reductions in public spending, and by a reduction in the buying power of wages. From our viewpoint, these measures will result in the maintaining or exacerbation of recessionary pressures, and of the basic underlying trends already manifested by this model, which has undergone no substantial change.

The exchange rate is to continue overvalued. In the face of an overvaluation of the cordoba estimated at 40-60 percent, a devaluation in the best of cases—with the inflation it triggers limited to a mere 7.5 percent—would amount to only 12 percent in real terms, and would change practically nothing in this regard. If its upward impact on prices amounts to 12 percent, the real devaluation will be even more insignificant: only seven percent.

GDP in Recession

The government has apparently accepted the view of the expert from Catholic University of Chile, on the need to maintain the cordoba overvalued so as to "absorb" the available holdings of foreign funds, through increased importation of consumer goods, as in Chile. Thus, the high rewarding of importers and heavy penalizing of exporters is to continue, representing a lower real exchange rate than the cordoba's parity level.

The conservative monetary policy of shrinking domestic spending and demand, and of drastically restricting credit, thus impeding and strangling all possibility of economic recovery, has already placed severe recessionary pressures on domestic production, which represents 80 percent of GDP [gross domestic product].

In the best of cases, the measures announced by the government, such as a spending cutback and a reduction of real wages, are of a recessionary nature for the domestic market, and will further compress the pent-up domestic demand, thus maintaining and probably exacerbating those pressures. And with the dismantling of domestic production, weakened and deteriorated as it is by a decade of war and blockade, and by the invasion of imported goods that is sweeping local producers out of the market, the recessionary trend is worsening. All of this has its origin in the irrational policy of opening the domestic market indiscriminately to foreign producers and of overvaluing the cordoba exchange rate.

A moderate growth of a few export activities will not halt the recession of domestic production, which represents the fundamental bulk of the GDP, nor will it halt the rise of unemployment.

The promised emergency employment will not offset even the growth of the population of working age, estimated at 45,000 young people a year, much less the growth of unemployment flowing from the continued recession and the strangulation of credit. These programs are promised against additional foreign funds, which are to be the object of special negotiations, while even the revolving foreign fund credits needed for the "plan" have not been assured as yet.

"Excess of Demand?"

Nevertheless, in an economy in which unemployment is high, the labor force is underutilized, a substantial productive capacity is idle, and foreign funds are available to import the intermediate and capital goods needed to activate this capacity, it is hard to talk of an "excess of demand" and to find justification for basing a correction of the situation on a further restriction of domestic spending.

On the contrary, there is a substantial margin for reviving the economy through a recovery of demand levels, and the mobilization of productive resources through credit. The implementation of policies that lead to greater use of its potential productive capacity would redound to the benefit of a recovery of economic activity, and to an attenuation of the degree of underutilization of the work force.

The IMF's [International Monetary Fund's] very own economists acknowledge that a growth-oriented fiscal policy could facilitate a revival of production and an attenuation of unemployment.

Panama

FARC Rebels Reportedly Demand Ransom for Missionaries

PA1102205493 Panama City CRITICA LIBRE in Spanish 11 Feb 93 p 20

[Text] A reliable source has informed us that members of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) are reportedly demanding between $3 and 5 million in ransom for the release of the three U.S. missionaries who were kidnapped on the Panamanian-Colombian border.

According to the source, an Indian chief [Sahila] in Darien Province talked with one of the FARC leaders as

the missionaries were being "taken away." The chief said the guerrillas urged the Indians to join them and "stop playing the gringos'" game.

The Indian chief made contact with one of the FARC leaders, who said they would return in one or two months to hear their answer. It was also learned that the village of El Real in Darien Province has been under alert in view of persistent rumors that the command post would be taken over.

The Special Police Reaction Group, as the Panamanian contingent searching for the missionaries in the dense jungles of Darien is called, continues to comb the area in an attempt to locate the lost Americans. There are clues that the missionaries are still in Panamanian territory. National Police Chief Oswaldo Fernandez is still in charge of the operation with the cooperation of Carlos (Toty) Bares, chief of the Institutional Protection Service, Menalco Solis, and Immigration Director Antonio Dominguez.

The kidnapping of the U.S. missionaries has shocked the public because it is a new type of violence in the isthmus that will lead the Public Force into clashes with drug traffickers as well as with economic and political terrorists.

Assembly Approves Articles 4, 5 of ARI

PA1202025493 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 11 Feb 93 p 2A

[Report by Eduardo Soto P.]

[Text] After a lengthy and heated debate, on 10 February the Legislative Assembly approved amendments to Articles 4 and 5 of the bill creating the Interoceanic Region Authority [ARI].

The ARI bill has been split into seven pieces to speed up the debates. These articles are part of the second piece to be debated. It has taken the deputies three and one-half weeks to approve five articles. They deal with ARI's powers once its creation is approved.

Once Articles 4 and 5 were approved, the Assembly started the debate on the third piece—Articles 6 through 19 inclusive—which deal with formulas to determine the ARI Board of Directors and its functions.

According to the articles approved on 10 February, ARI must draft a general plan and present it to the president for approval. Once it is approved at this level, the plan will be sent to the Legislative Assembly to be ratified or rejected.

Article 4 states that ARI must plan, coordinate, and decide on the implementation of specific strategies, programs, and projects for the use, protection, and development of reverted properties.

Article 5 establishes which properties ARI cannot sell, such as the land and buildings necessary for canal operation and improvements or any type of expansion of the waterway in accordance with the canal managing agency's requirements.

Finally, none of the forests and areas designated for the protection of the environment or for scientific, recreational, or water supply purposes can be sold.

Lawyers File Suit Against Bill

PA1102233893 Panama City Telemetro Television Network in Spanish 1730 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Text] A group of lawyers has filed an unconstitutionality suit against draft bill no. 16, which refers to the Interoceanic Region Authority [ARI].

[Begin Lawyer Silvio Guerra recording] We believe that in our country there are enough legal concepts and constitutional foundations to consider draft bill no. 16 a nefarious project.

We believe the Supreme Court plenum has the undeniable responsibility, for the sake of current and future generations, to state immediately that the draft bill is in conflict with over seven rulings established in the National Constitution.

Through us, the Panamanian people make their legal statement with regard to that, I repeat, nefarious draft bill. [end recording]

Foreign Ministry Says Southern Command Bidding Authorized

PA1102210793 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 11 Feb 93 p 8C

[Report by Orlando Mendieta C.]

[Text] The Panamanian Foreign Ministry has officially announced that the bidding opened by the U.S. Southern Command for repairs at the Enrique Malek Airport in David is authorized under a clause approved in the Fuertes Caminos 93 program.

EL PANAMA AMERICA has learned that the clause was approved because Civil Aeronautics Director Zosimo Guardia warned that the runway could be damaged as a result of constant landings by Southern Command aircraft participating in the Fuertes Caminos program.

The Foreign Ministry noted that this will guarantee the Enrique Malek Airport runway will be maintained in good condition, and therefore there was nothing irregular in the authorization.

He added that the repair costs of the David airport runway will be covered by the Southern Command and the company granted the contract can be Panamanian.

The Southern Command recently announced the opening of bids for repairing and restoring the David airport runway, which will cost approximately 800,000 balboas.

Argentina

Minister Sees Menem UK Visit 'Quite Unlikely'

PY1102163493 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2319 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Text] Buenos Aires, 10 Feb (NA)—Foreign Minister Guido di Tella said tonight that it is "quite unlikely" that President Carlos Menem will visit the United Kingdom before the two countries reach a fishing agreement in the South Atlantic.

Di Tella said that the Argentine Government wants to prevent the visit from "taking place during the fishing agreement negotiations."

Regarding the agreement Argentina and Great Britain hope to sign possibly next April, di Tella said: "We will do our best but I believe there are great difficulties."

Di Tella said this at the Olivos residence after briefing President Menem on his European trip, part of which they made together at the economic conference in Davos, Switzerland.

Regarding the Argentine decision to send troops to the Persian Gulf, di Tella reaffirmed "the decision to go ahead" although he explained that "preparations take several weeks because there are many details and problems related to equipping the troops that have to be solved."

He also disclosed that a decision was made to suspend a Foreign Ministry official and to investigate a report that he forced a rabbi to take off his kepi before talking to him.

Di Tella said: "If this is true, which seems to be, we consider it extremely serious."

He added: "We will punish any discrimination as harshly as possible. We will not tolerate anti-Semitism, which is repugnant and has no place in Argentina and less still in the Foreign Ministry."

Di Tella Views UN Security Council Seat

PY1102163893 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1414 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Text] Buenos Aires, 11 Feb (NA)—Foreign Minister Guido di Tella indicated this morning that the Argentine Government's decision to send troops on peace missions in areas of conflict abroad "has nothing to do" with the purpose of obtaining a seat on the UN Security Council.

He stated that Argentina has the support of 12 Latin American countries "and 40 other important countries outside the region."

Corrientes Assembly Opts for Direct Elections for Governor

PY1202013793 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 11 Feb 93 pp 1, 11

[Text] Corrientes (DYN-NA)—This province's turbulent political situation took a major step toward a calmer future yesterday when the Constituent Assembly relegated the Electoral College System to the annals of history, while Federal Trustee Idel r Tonelli prepared to analyze the restoration of the legislature with President Carlos Menem today.

After a marathon session that began at 7.30 pm on Tuesday and ended in the wee hours of yesterday morning the assembly voted 21 to 18 along strict party lines for a system of direct election to choose the province's governor. Under the plan a second poll would be held if no candidate won at least 50 percent of the vote in the first round.

The convention's 16 Justicialists and five Radicals promoted the system that was finally approved, while the Autonomist-Liberal Pact (PAL) had advocated a first-past-the-post set-up. The two-round plan is more beneficial to both its backers because the PAL usually polls at least 40 percent while under the new set-up the pact would be more likely to be forced into a runoff.

The Radical Party gave its support to the Justicialists' plan as the smallest of the province's three major parties would have the opportunity to mediate between the other two were a run-off required.

With the abolition of the Electoral College provincial leaders hope to put an end to the turmoil that has left it without a governor since the first election was held on October 27, 1991, and seen the imposition of Francisco Duranona y Vedia, Claudia Bello and finally Tonelli as federal trustees.

The national government took over the province on February 4 of last year after the college was unable to elect a governor. A second election on December 20 yielded no better results when all the Justicialists' and one of the Radicals' electors failed to show up.

Yesterday's session was not the last, however, for the constitutional changers, who must next tackle the issue of whether to retain Corrientes' three election districts despite the significant difference in their populations (preferred by the Justicialists and Radicals) or to create one single, province-wide district (supported by the PAL).

Meanwhile, the new trustee is finally scheduled to meet with the President—an earlier session got postponed due to Menem's reportedly overbooked schedule—to give a state of the province report. Also likely to be on the agenda is whether to reconvene the suspended legislature, a move Tonelli reportedly backs because it may improve the chances of a new round of political dialogue in Corrientes.

One dark cloud amid yesterday's positive news consisted of new charges by Corrientes PAL Senator Jose Romero Feris, who said the province's public debt jumped by 55.8 percent to 269 million pesos during the trusteeships of Duranona y Vedia and Bello, a fact he added was "not officially proved with the release of a report from the Corrientes economy minister." Romero Feris warned that future provincial administrations may file suit against the first two trustees for failure to fulfill public duty or misuse of funds.

Romero Feris, who is also the PAL's head and the brother of Raul Romero Feris, the pact's candidate for governor, also filed an appeal with the national Supreme Court yesterday calling on the body to annul the President's January 20 decision to extend the government's intervention in Corrientes to the legislature and annul the December gubernatorial election. (The executive and judicial branches had already been taken over.)

The senator also called on the six of the court's nine justices appointed by Menem to remove themselves from the case due to the "clear enmity" they have supposedly shown toward him.

Contract Approved for TELAM Move to Satellite Operations

PY1102235893 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2150 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Text] Buenos Aires, 10 Feb (TELAM)—Jose Antonio Sanchez Elia, deputy government trustee of the National Telecommunications Commission (CNT), has told TELAM that the executive branch yesterday awarded the supplying, launching, and operation of the domestic satellite system to the DASA European group.

According to the official, the contract will be signed within the next 30 working days. Under the terms of the contract, "temporary" telecommunications services will be operated as of April by Argentina's group Paracom and by Canada's Telsat.

DASA executive Manfredo Croissant has said that these temporary services will be operated for approximately two and a half years, until satellites Nahuel-1 and Nahuel-2 are launched, covering the entire Argentine territory and the Mercosur [Common Market of the South] area.

The decree awarded the contract to the Temporary Union of Companies (UTE), which is made up of Aerospatiale SNI, Alcatel Espace SA, Alenia Spazio Corporation, Deutsche Aerospace, and the Brazilian Telecommunications Company (Embratel).

In its whereas clauses, the decree states that UTE "fulfilled the obligation of presenting the program of activities (pert)," which is like a "critical plan" that outlines the conditions to be met for deploying the system in orbit positions 80 and 85 degrees west.

The "pert" system was approved by the pre-qualification commission that is presided over by Sanchez Elia on 29 January 1993. The government decree approved and ratified "all the actions" by the commission, the CNT, the under secretariat of communications, and the satellite commission.

The decree, which set in motion a mechanism that establishes a period of 30 working days for signing the contract, was released while DASA was holding a major meeting in Munich.

UTE-DASA will own more than 25 percent of the company shares, while Paracom will own 10 percent of the shares. The rest of the shares will be owned by Canada's Telesat and other investors who will join the project under the conditions established by the contract.

Paracom, which is made up of several Argentine enterprises and organizations—among them LA NACION, Loma Negra, cable television companies, insurance companies, etc.—will own 90 percent of the shares of the temporary system. The remaining 10 percent will be owned by Canada's Telesat, which will supply two satellites that will provide the temporary services.

According to a market survey that was performed in the past few days, the demand for the services might allow the company to operate a third satellite.

Bolivia

Paz Zamora Notes U.S. Aid Cuts, Hints at Countermove

PY1102223693 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2055 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Text] La Paz, 11 Feb (EFE)—Bolivian President Jaime Paz Zamora today rejected a suggestion that the cut in U.S. aid to his country was a reprisal, but added: "If they move one piece, we will move another."

The Bolivian Foreign Ministry and the U.S. Embassy in La Paz announced on 9 February that the United States intended to cut $26 million from the annual aid the U.S. Government grants to Bolivia's balance of payments in exchange for the eradication of coca plantations.

This economic aid, which last year amounted to $66 million and will this year be reduced to $40 million, is part of the two countries' strategy to fight drug trafficking.

The Bolivian Foreign Ministry and the U.S. Embassy did not specify the reasons for the cut, but the truth is that for the past two years Bolivia has not fulfilled its commitment with Washington to eradicate 5,000 to 8,000 hectares of coca plantations annually.

Paz Zamora said that the cut is due to the fact "that apparently the fight against drug trafficking is not one of the new U.S. priorities in Latin America, which is interesting."

The Bolivian president said: "We have fraternal relations with the United States, and nothing to complain about, but we must agree on a new plan of action between our two countries."

The president noted, however, that when talking about Bolivia's relations with the United States "if one factor moves, all other factors move, too. It is like a chess board. If they move one piece, we will move another, which as a country we have the right to do."

The cut in U.S. aid to Bolivia was harshly criticized by a number of Paz Zamora's ministers.

Campesino Affairs Minister Oswaldo Antezana said: "Bolivia can in no way accept the U.S. decision."

Interior Minister Carlos Saavedra warned that it would be "a mistake" for the new U.S. Administration to reduce the economic cooperation with Bolivia destined for the joint fight against drug trafficking.

Government 'Will Not Accept' Cuts

PY1202024793 La Paz Television Nacional Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 12 Feb 93

[Text] A report on the possible reduction of the U.S. contribution to the Bolivian drug enforcement budget has provoked reactions at all levels.

Commenting on the U.S. budget cut for drug enforcement activities in Bolivia, Social Defense Under Secretary Gonzalo Torrico said in a news conference that the Bolivian Government will not accept any cut that would affect the balance of payments and the Alternative Development Program.

[Begin Torrico recording] On 9 February Foreign Minister Ronald MacLean presided over a meeting of the National Council Against Drug Abuse and Illegal Drug Trafficking. At that meeting, it was decided that bilateral negotiations between the Bolivian and U.S. Governments would begin next week. These negotiations will focus on the various aspects of U.S. cooperation with Bolivia. As far as an alleged budget reduction is concerned, I can state clearly that one of the basic pillars of the drug enforcement effort is the Alternative Development Program, in addition to interdiction and prevention.

As you know, we have conducted major actions at home regarding interdiction. Furthermore, thanks to intelligence data and information supplied by our country, major rings of drug traffickers have been uncovered and dismantled abroad. I believe Bolivia has implemented a significant interdiction policy, proof of which are our major achievements in this area. [end recording]

Torrico added that the tangible achievements of the Alternative Development Program have resulted in improved crops and exports of pineapple and plantain, as well as in electrification projects.

Commentary Terms Cuts 'Blackmail'

PY1202022593 La Paz Television Nacional Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 12 Feb 93

[Station commentary read by anchorman Orlando Encinas]

[Text] Yesterday we unexpectedly learned through the national press about a report that goes not only against our drug enforcement policy, but also against our national dignity. Although this report is not entirely official, it has provoked immediate reaction in our country.

Osvaldo Antezana, minister of agricultural and campesino affairs, said emphatically: As the United States does not want to give us that amount of money, we can make a counterproposal and manage to come to an agreement.

Interior Minister Carlos Saavedra Bruno said there is no reason for us to be told that U.S. support for our balance of payments will be reduced. He said that should this announcement materialize, the U.S. Government would be making a mistake in reducing its economic assistance for the Alternative Development Program.

In addition to these remarks by the above ministers, the Bolivian Government has stated that we do not deserve any reductions in a budget that has always been insufficient.

We are undoubtedly facing a serious problem. The truth is that our country can no longer be humiliated in this fashion. It has time and again been said that the drug problem is not one involving just one country: It is a problem of mankind. Thus, in addition to flatly rejecting this threat or blackmail by the U.S. Government, we must take this opportunity to make the United States understand once and for all that its contribution cannot be considered as aid, but simply as a small share of its responsibility in eradicating this scourge affecting mankind.

Brazil

Itamaraty To Investigate Brazilians Held in Venezuela

PY1202134493 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 1600 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Text] Itamaraty will request the assistance of the Federal Police and the Army to learn whether the 46 Brazilians being held in Puerto Ayacucho, Venezuela, were arrested in Brazilian territory. Two women and 16 Indians are among the detainees.

Itamaraty already has received the first reports on the 46 Brazilians who have been held in Puerto Ayacucho, Venezuela, since 30 January. In a telegram sent by the Brazilian Embassy in Caracas, the Brazilians claim they were arrested in Brazilian territory.

The list of people includes two women, 16 Indians, and 28 gold prospectors.

Itamaraty reported that the Brazilian Embassy in Caracas is closely following the case, and that it already has sent clothes, food, and toiletries to the detainees. This morning Brazilian Foreign Affairs Minister Fernando Henrique Cardoso held a meeting at the Consular Department to take steps to release them. The first step will be aimed at finding out whether they were arrested in Brazilian territory. To this end Itamaraty will talk with the Venezuelan Government, the Army, and the Brazilian Federal Police. It also will send a commission to verify the situation on the border between the two countries.

IMF To Renegotiate Agreement After Appraisal Mission

PY1202135693 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 10 Feb 93 p 20

[Article by special correspondent Sergio Leo in Washington, D.C.]

[Text] The Itamar Franco administration must submit a coherent economic program to the IMF by 30 April in order to be able to negotiate an agreement with the aforementioned international organization. Finance Minister Paulo Haddad received this warning from IMF Managing Director Michel Camdessus during a meeting they held yesterday. Camdessus assured Haddad that the agreement with the IMF still stands, but, to Haddad's great disappointment, the technical mission the IMF will send to Brazil on 1 March will only assess the state of the Brazilian economy and under no circumstances will it start negotiations with Brazil.

Camdessus explained that if Brazil submits its economic program by the end of April, the IMF will be able to begin discussing it before the biannual meeting of the Interim Committee of the IMF Board of Governors, scheduled for May. Camdessus, who was one of the staunchest advocates of the IMF's reaching an agreement with Brazil, underscored the need for Brazil to submit a comprehensive and coherent economic program so the IMF might discuss Brazil's proposal to continue the agreement without having to write a new letter of intent—notwithstanding the fact that Brazil did not meet the targets set by the IMF for 1992.

Haddad confirmed that the IMF will send a mission to Brazil in March. He said: "We were able to get what everybody wanted—the IMF is willing to cooperate with Brazil."

Haddad termed the meeting he held with Camdessus during lunch at IMF headquarters in Washington, D.C. positive, though this first contact with the IMF managing director did not meet his expectations. Haddad cherished the hope that he could extract from Camdessus a commitment to change the technical mission into a negotiating mission so Brazil might have an outline of a new stand- by [preceding word in English] agreement with the IMF.

Camdessus made it clear that even though the IMF still is interested in upholding its agreement with Brazil, it will only start renegotiating that agreement after the Brazilian Government submits its economic policy to the IMF and the technical mission concludes its preliminary assessments of the evolution of the Brazilian economy. The new agreement provides for the release of a $2 billion loan to be used by Brazil as collateral for the debt rescheduling agreement with private creditors. Brazil has been unable to collect the $2 billion yet, which already was contemplated in the original agreement, because it did not meet the targets imposed by the IMF last year.

Yesterday, Haddad also met Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentsen, World Bank President Lewis Preston, and Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan.

Senate To Vote on Tax Reform 17, 18 Feb

PY1202114793 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2200 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Excerpt] President Itamar Franco was officially informed today that the Senate will vote on the fiscal reform bill on 17 and 18 February and that the second round of voting is scheduled for 5 March.

Senator Albano Franco, PRN [National Reconstruction Party]- Sergipe State, today submitted three amendments to the government's fiscal reform bill. The first amendment establishes that the IPMF [provisional tax on financial operations] will be enforced for only 12 months after the law's promulgation. The second amendment allots 50 percent of what is collected from the IPMF to payments on the domestic public debt, which amounts to 10 percent of the GDP [gross domestic product]. The third amendment proposes the elimination of the Social Investment Fund and taxing corporate profits. [passage omitted]

Cardoso Views Trade With Arab Countries

PY1102131793 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 9 Feb 93 Merchant Fleet Special Supplement p 6

["Text" of speech by Brazilian Foreign Minister Fernando Henrique Cardoso at the Maksoud Plaza Hotel in Sao Paulo at a "gathering" held in his honor by the Arab-Brazilian Chamber of Commerce, CCAB; no date given—quotation marks as published]

[Excerpts] "I have several reasons for being pleased to participate in this event organized by the CCAB. First, because today we celebrate this chamber's 40th anniversary which reflects the enterprising spirit of the Arab-Brazilian communities. [passage omitted]

I am especially pleased to see here outstanding members of the Arab descent community, which has greatly contributed through its efforts and talents to Brazilian development. [passage omitted]

Ladies and gentlemen: This gathering enhances the already clear evidence of Arab presence in the effort to build a modern Brazil. Not just modern from the economic view point, but also from the social viewpoint.

The basic guidelines of President Itamar Franco's government clearly establish that the search for modernism must reflect a harmonization of the economic and social fields. Modernism cannot mean wealth coexisting with misery, nor technological achievements coexisting with hunger, ignorance, and neglect among huge sectors of our population.

In my capacity as a politician and sociologist, I have tried to study human relationships thoroughly within society. When I became foreign minister three months ago I became deeply interested in daily international events and the strengthening of Brazil's interests and aspirations in the world. Because I am aware of how difficult this task is, I wish to congratulate the CCAB for the effort it has made to tighten Brazil's economic and commercial ties with the member countries of the Arab world.

This relationship is one of the priority points of Brazilian foreign policy. It is aslo due to our historic circumstances and the country's growing presence in the international arena. Since way back in history, the Near East has been the focus of civilization, the source of culture, and the main stage of human history. It is an area of great economic and strategic value that has always drawn the world's attention. For some time now it has been one of the main poles of international relations.

International developments, following the end of the Cold War and the consequences of the Gulf conflict, give the Near East—probably for the first time—the opportunity to direct its own future. This is a time of reorganization in the Middle East. The distribution of forces in that region has changed significantly, the conditions for foreign intervention have changed, and the responsibilities of Arab leaderships have grown.

The Regional Middle East Peace Conference has created a real opportunity for ultimately achieving peace in that part of the world. The Maghreb countries are seeking to strengthen their international standing by creating the Arabic Maghreb Union. The Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] is strengthening ties among its member countries and is consolidating its position as a respectable international organization.

The Peace Conference has paved the way for the international community to double its efforts to bring about a just, comprehensive, and lasting solution to the Middle East conflict. The Brazilian Government has time and again stated its resolve to support every initiative aimed at promoting a peaceful solution that is compatible with the tenets of the UN Charter, and to participate in the implementation of Resolutions 242 and 338 of the UN Security Council, so as to enable all countries in the region to live in peace within internationally recognized borders.

The year of 1973 was a turning point in shaping relations between Brazil and Middle East countries. Because we are heavily dependent on oil, the oil crisis caused us to further strengthen our relations that were based on the cultural and blood ties we shared with Arab countries. It is proper to note that just six countries (Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, and Libya) own approximately 60 percent of the world's oil reserves. Today, 45 percent of the Brazilian oil needs are covered with imported oil, 60 percent of which comes from the Middle East region.

Besides the economic importance of our relations, Brazil's solidarity with Arab countries has also led it to attach great political importance to each individual state. We share the concern of the international community over the future of the Palestinian people. We call for the reconstruction of Lebanon. We want to further ties with Jordan and Syria.

This is, however, a chamber of commerce which, even though it cannot afford to brush aside political evolution, is mainly concerned with businesses. Let us then elaborate further on this topic.

The Brazilian Government has absolute trust in the work undertaken by the CCAB. The CCAB supports the endeavors of Brazilian exporters to gain a firm foothold in the market that comprises 15 Middle East countries, which in 1990 imported approximately $100 billion worth of goods, according to World Bank figures.

It must be pointed out that during the period 1985 to 1990, the Gulf Cooperation Council (which comprises Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates) imported goods that range between $31.4 billion and $42.8 billion per country.

Trade between the Middle East and Brazil totalled $2.8 billion in 1991. Of this, approximately $1.9 billion relates to Brazilian imports from the Middle East, while $900 million relates to Brazilian exports.

We have accumulated a chronic deficit with our oil-supplying countries. It is incumbent upon the CCAB to provide the means to redress the balance and help us eliminate the deficit with GCC member countries, a task which is of utmost importance for our domestic economy. GCC member countries are especially important for Brazil because they are highly valued markets on account of their high purchasing power and efficient economies. Notwithstanding this, Brazilian presence there is well below what it could be.

I would like to take this opportunity to urge the CCAB member countries to activate current bilateral mechanisms with a view to promoting closer bilateral ties. Without mentioning every possibility or other personal

initiative on this subject, I would like to highlight the meetings of the Mixed Committees with Saudi Arabia, Algeria, Egypt, United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Morocco, and Tunisia, slated for next year.

These meetings may be instrumental in furthering the terms of trade and bring governments and the business sector together. [passage omitted]

I would like to see the CCAB and the Foreign Ministry really committed to achieving those objectives. Through its Near East Department, the Foreign Ministry will continue to coordinate its support and foster the CCAB's endeavors. [passage omitted]

Brazilian businessmen will increasingly have to fend for themselves and look for better opportunities by acting on their own initiative.

I am working on the establishment of a Standing Committee on Business within the Foreign Ministry that will facilitate relations between the Department of Trade Promotion and Brazilian entrepreneurs' interests.

Brazil's trade deficit with Arab countries, which is between $1 and $2 billion, should not be regarded as a hindrance. As is well known, the aforementioned countries have tremendous potential as international investors. Everybody knows that Brazil desperately needs to attract foreign investments that will enable us to resume growth, but it has kept a low profile in the struggle to attract investments from Arab countries.

The advancement of our economic and commercial relations with Arab countries hinges on our ability to attract Arab capital. The success of such initiatives, which will entail close cooperation between government and businessmen, will be of paramount importance for the future of our relations. At a time when the world is experiencing whirlwind changes, such as the one we are witnessing, we cannot afford to lose time. [passage omitted]

Inspired by a positive outlook on the future, let us renew our commitment to put our shoulder to the wheel to accomplish our goals. "Thank you."

Chile

Judge Requests Data on Weapons Sale to Iraq

PY1102164293 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2245 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Text] Santiago de Chile, 10 Feb (EFE)—On 9 February a Chilean judge approved a request to the so-called Scott Commission of the British Parliament for all available data on the illegal sale of weapons to Iraq. The request comes because of the commission's connection with the murder of British journalist Jonathan Moyle.

The judge thus complied with a petition by Jorge Trivino, the lawyer of the Moyle family in Chile. Trivino went to London in January, where he conducted a series of investigations at the British Parliament and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

The judge has requested data on the debates conducted by the Scott Commission of the British Parliament, in which Moyle was mentioned as being linked to the investigation into the illegal sale of weapons to Iraq through the Matrix Churchill company based in Great Britain.

Chilean entrepreneur Carlos Cardoen has carried out various transactions with this company which manufactures spare parts for weapons. Cardoen amassed a fortune from the sale of weapons to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn during the war with Iran.

The British mass media has linked Cardoen with Mark Thatcher, son of former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. He is accused of acting as a mediator in the sale of weapons to Iraq, in violation of the UN embargo following the invasion of Kuwait.

An early police report states that Moyle "committed suicide" at a downtown hotel in Santiago in March 1990.

Judge Alejandro Solis, however, described the case as "murder" because the autopsy revealed that Moyle had taken tranquilizers—which he never used—apparently provided by other people to make it look like suicide.

Police Agents Raid House of Journalist

PY1102165693 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Text] Police agents this morning violently raided the house of Juan Andres Lagos, director of the weekly EL SIGLO. Lagos is being held at the Capuchinos Prison.

This report was released by Lagos' wife Elisa Neumann who said that Investigative police agents arrived with an arrest warrant. She said that the same thing happened last night at the house of Francisco Herrera, the other journalist who is in prison.

[Begin Neumann recording] They also had an arrest warrant and entered the house in the same manner. Herrera's wife was very frightened, very excited, and very worried. This is absurd because, first, if an arrest warrant is issued against Francisco Herrera, it should be delivered to his house, which is his regular home. Second, Carabineros should know that he is already under arrest at Capuchinos Prison.

In my case, which took place at 0710 this morning, the investigative police agents arrived and opened the gate, although I do not know how. The bars and gates are very high and I do not know what they used to open them. When I asked them why did they not knock or ring the bell, they said they did not want to knock at that time of the morning. [end recording]

The arrest warrant carried by the police reads: Related to the same trial for which they are under arrest, that is, for reported slander and offense to members of the Supreme Court. [sentence as heard]

Colombia

Minister Sanin Interviewed on Current Topics

PA1102221593 Santa Fe de Bogota EL NUEVO SIGLO in Spanish 8 Feb 93 pp 6a, 7a

[Interview with Foreign Minister Noemi Sanin Posada by unidentified EL NUEVO SIGLO reporter in Santa Fe de Bogota; date not given]

[Text] [EL NUEVO SIGLO] How is the Foreign Ministry restructuring going?

[Sanin] We are satisfied. We decided to create specialized units in the Foreign Ministry. We will have a deputy minister to handle all relations with America; namely, the Group of Three [G- 3], Andean Pact, Rio Group, United States, Central America, and Canada. Another deputy minister will be in charge of the EC, Asia, and Africa. A third deputy foreign minister will handle aspects related to international organizations and other specialized topics such as drug trafficking, the environment, and human rights.

[EL NUEVO SIGLO] How is integration and the economic opening advancing?

[Sanin] Integration is advancing very well. I would say the dynamics of it are surprising. We have surpassed our many expectations, and the advantages for Colombia have been greater than expected. Take the Andean Pact, for instance, which was fortunately established 20 years ago. Although the Pact was necessary, it had never gone beyond words as we basically signed agreements to respect each country's borders and took very few steps to enrich our nations. Fortunately this modern instrument was revitalized. We are currently reshaping the Andean Pact. I believe we will modernize this organization in three or four months at the most.

[EL NUEVO SIGLO] Is it true we are the leaders in the Andean market?

[Sanin] According to the 1992 balance, Colombia is ahead in the Andean market. We have 48 percent of the Pact's commercial businesses, which demonstrates the virtues of integration and economic openness.

[EL NUEVO SIGLO] One of the Pact's problems was the limits of our borders. At the same time, we had the problem that the parties had no higher legal institution or justice tribunal to consult. What is the new idea now, to remove that legal obstacle or pay total attention to commerce?

[Sanin] If there are no organizations with the power to settle commerce disputes at the Andean Pact and world levels, there is the possibility of having serious political problems and even the threat of a trade war.

[EL NUEVO SIGLO] Do you not think that the proposal to freeze everything related to the border dispute with Venezuela for at least 10 years would greatly contribute to the final success of integration and economic opening.

[Sanin] That was an idea of the late Luis Carlos Galan. The Virgilio Barco administration approved a procedure that is still in effect to seek a solution to this and all the other equally important topics through direct negotiation. The topic of migration is decisive for the relationship between the two countries, and so are the topics of the hydrographic basins and international rivers. President Cesar Gaviria ratified the agreements made by President Barco, and we are very interested in the negotiating commissions that are working arduously and responsibly. The two commissions will meet again in a few days.

[EL NUEVO SIGLO] Are these commissions working?

[Sanin] They are working constantly. They meet every two months as the work is permanent. They conduct the technical preparatory work that is very important, although we have not yet reached agreements on any matter. We will insist on direct negotiations as long as we are convinced that the possibility of reaching an agreement exists. If at some point we believe that is not possible, we will have to seek one of the other options that international law offers us.

[EL NUEVO SIGLO] In that regard, we are reportedly exchanging commercial sovereignty for territorial sovereignty. The country is allergic to that. It is also said that we have a dry coast. Is that true?

[Sanin] We are making no exchange of territory or national sovereignty. We are responsibly seeking an agreement that will be satisfactory to both parties. We are undergoing a process of integration and openness—also responsibly—because we cannot deprive the country of those elements that are beneficial to its development. It would be a mistake for us to delay integration and the openness policy until we definitively settle our differences. We are seeking the best solution for the two parties in keeping with international law. It is obvious, however, that we cannot under any circumstances accept the dry coast theory. We are negotiating a delimitation. We cannot even talk about the dry coast theory.

[EL NUEVO SIGLO] Former President Alan Garcia will not be extradited. How much could the former president's talkativeness and his virtual proselytism in our country affect Peruvian-Colombian relations? By the way, why was extradition flatly rejected without allowing Colombian courts to review the documents presented by a commission of senators from Peru?

[Sanin] Let us deal with this point by point. First, agreements to which Colombia is a signatory define asylum rights. An individual who is granted asylum has

a right to speak out but not meddle in the host country's domestic affairs. The former president has not done the latter. We cannot censor or prevent him from exercising his human rights or those rights granted him by asylum.

[EL NUEVO SIGLO] Has the Colombian Government already notified the Peruvian Government?

[Sanin] The justice minister is about to complete his ruling. The decision not to extradite was already made. We will notify the Peruvian Government in the upcoming days. We are not concerned that relations between the two countries could deteriorate because we are sure it will not happen. This case involves a discretionary act, a sovereign act of each country. It is their sovereign decision to request extradition and our sovereign decision to decide whether to grant it. We are sure Peru will understand our situation.

[EL NUEVO SIGLO] To what degree does the banana marketing policy neutralize the four-year tariff exemption granted to Andean countries by the EC? Although it is true, legally speaking, that the exemption is still in effect, does not the decision to establish quotas, among other measures, neutralize the exemption?

[Sanin] Yes. It does not seem to be coherent because, on the one hand, we are supported with some very favorable measures—we have heard the good news that they are planning to strengthen those measures—while on the other hand, they adopt a measure of that type. We have already begun to work on extending the deadline for that decision while our industrialists learn to export. Thus, I think it would be fair for the EC to exempt a large portion of our products from tariffs. We want to get an extension on the exemption, but we also expect a review of the banana policy because regulation could make the measure completely flexible. Some European countries are helping us, Great Britain, among others. Spain is not helping much because of the canal problem. There are 18,000 families that depend on the banana industry.

[EL NUEVO SIGLO] How will the government build international solidarity with our country at international forums such as the United Nations, among others, regarding the civil war caused by narcoterrorism?

[Sanin] The president suggested a world summit on drug trafficking in his speech to the United Nations in October 1992. He recently briefed representatives of the international community and bilateral organizations on the current situation in Colombia. Four years ago our entire country and people were viewed as drug traffickers. The country has gained respect among the international community.

[EL NUEVO SIGLO] There was a very serious development in that regard. Before leaving the presidency, George Bush presented a report to Congress describing Colombia as the world's most violent country, not only because of drug trafficking but because of the guerrillas and common crime. The report adds that it is therefore difficult to help this country. Colombian media paid little attention to this news.

[Sanin] The reason is that the news is fragmented. The Foreign Ministry is studying Bush's complete report. It is a very different analysis. It tries to demonstrate Colombia's complexity. We are aware of our problems with violence, poverty, human rights, people who violate human rights at institutions, the guerrillas who are among the main human rights violators, and drug traffickers. The interesting thing, however, is that we are fighting them. The report does recognize Colombia's integrity and voices solidarity with us.

[EL NUEVO SIGLO] How can we receive solidarity from the world when, for example, we have abolished extradition, a factor that allowed the internationalization of drug trafficking as a crime?

[Sanin] We will not accept any type of international cooperation or aid conditioned upon a violation of our laws. For us, respecting our Constitution and laws comes first. We will not accept conditions that contradict our laws or even hint at it. That is our sovereignty, our state of law.

[EL NUEVO SIGLO] Let us talk about Cuba. Argentina, for example, has said democratic countries on the continent cannot remain indifferent to the situation in Cuba. Colombia, however, has said it respects people's self-determination and that Cuba must resolve its own problems.

[Sanin] I believe both assessments are inexact. Argentina's position is not that radical. On certain occasions we have agreed. The problem can be viewed from different angles. It is not true that we remain indifferent to Cuba's future. We are concerned about the Cuban people's well-being. We are concerned about the political and economic circumstances they are facing. Therefore, we want and encourage a political change in Cuba. We are sure a political change would create economic opportunities. We favor a peaceful change, not a bloody one. In addition, we do not want to see any country intervene in Cuba. We support the nonintervention principle. We have maintained contacts with groups opposed to the Cuban Government, and the G-3 established a direct dialogue with Fidel Castro. We are not indifferent to Cuba's fate. We know the Cuban people themselves will achieve democracy. So far we are satisfied with what we have done.

[EL NUEVO SIGLO] Why do we have commercial and consular relations with Cuba? How can those relations benefit Colombia? On the other hand, we have abandoned relations that could benefit us commercially; for example, with Taiwan.

[Sanin] We are against a unilateral blockade. We believe it has only increased solidarity among Cubans, who feel they must unite to defend themselves. Colombia needs markets. We do not believe we are consolidating the

Cuban regime by maintaining consular and commercial relations. Those are independent areas. Having consular and commercial relations with Cuba will not hurt Colombia. I have yet to hear that those relations are harmful for the country.

[EL NUEVO SIGLO] What about our commercial relations with Taiwan?

[Sanin] Colombia will open a commercial office in Taiwan in the next few months.

[EL NUEVO SIGLO] Regarding investments, our ambassador to Spain said there are no Colombian investments abroad, while the finance minister has said the ambassador is wrong because Colombia needs foreign investments here. Who is right?

[Sanin] Both. Colombian investors are investing abroad—we have seen this with the Ardila Lulle and Santodomingo groups—and several financial institutions are currently in neighboring countries looking at new markets. It is also important for us to have foreign investors contributing to Colombia's development.

[EL NUEVO SIGLO] What are the real benefits for Colombia as partners in the so-called Nonaligned Movement?

[Sanin] There has been a significant change in the so-called Nonaligned Movement. It no longer uses belligerent language. Nevertheless, we cannot ignore the reality that there are many countries with a similar development process as ours. We must at the same time promote dialogue with developed countries. If Colombia left the Nonaligned Movement, it would be facing the big nations alone as it is a small country. As developing nations in this time of economic opening, we need just rules and we also need to sell our products to industrialized countries. Who says poor countries cannot cooperate with each other? If we follow that theory, then we might as well forget about Peru, Ecuador, Bolivia, and Venezuela.

Judge Orders Radio To Correct Report on Minister

PA1102212493 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0300 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Text] Caracol Radio on 10 October heeded an order by a judge who, acting in response to a request for protection, instructed the radio to correct a news report claiming that Agriculture Minister Alfonso Lopez Caballero was evading taxes. Caracol Radio announced at 0530 [1030 GMT] that the news report was false.

Prosecutor Orders Return of Escobar Family Assets

PA1102213193 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0300 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Text] The Prosecutor's Office on 10 February ordered the return of all the assets that were seized from Pablo Escobar's family in La Catedral.

Newscast Follows Dynamite Smuggling Route

PA1102160593 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Text] The "National Newscast" [Noticiero Nacional] program followed the route used by the dynamite traffickers to bring explosives into Colombia. It takes over 14 hours to travel the route. Border town inhabitants describe this illegal business.

First, we have the Maritime or Esmeraldas route. We are in La Tola, an Ecuadoran fishing town near the port of Esmeraldas and one hour from the Colombian border. According to the authorities, this is the starting point for the routes used by the explosives traffickers, by open sea or inshore.

[Begin unidentified La Tola resident recording] There is no control here by the authorities. There is no law. They can transport anything they want through here. [end recording]

The open sea route begins in Esmeraldas, Ecuador, and runs directly to the port of Buenaventura, Colombia. Speed boats have to pass through long straights on the inshore route. They leave Esmeraldas sheltered by darkness and, staying close inshore, they cross the Colombia-Ecuador border. They pass through San Lorenzo to reach Tumaco after a 10-hour journey.

[Begin La Tola resident recording] They are hired to do this. They bring it here from Esmeraldas and take it on to San Lorenzo. From San Lorenzo, they take it to Tumaco. Everything passes through here, but since no one checks anything, no one finds anything. [end recording]

This is La Tola. It is a port through which smugglers bring drugs and weapons in addition to explosives. Ships arrive in this town with dynamite hidden among the shrimp. Some explosives are sold to the fishermen. The same thing goes on in Limones and San Lorenzo. Here, they sometimes use firecrackers [cohete] or dynamite to fish.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified San Lorenzo resident] They throw firecrackers in the river, but I do not like it because it is too dangerous. I do not like to handle firecrackers. Some people throw firecrackers, but I do not like it.

[Reporter Sandra Vergara; identified by caption] Where do they get the firecrackers?

[Resident] The firecrackers come from Sierra or Colombia.

[Vergara] Where in Colombia?

[Resident] From Tumaco.

[Vergara] Who brings them?

[Resident] The smugglers who deal in that. They bring it and place it near the shops, and people who fish with it go buy it.

[Vergara] Do they bring a lot?

[Resident] Yes. [end recording]

Those who live here or pass through say there is no law at the border. However, the commander of the San Lorenzo Naval Base says the route for explosives is under control.

[Begin Captain Jorge Narvaez recording] We have the access channels completely under control. We have Coast Guard boats and our own boats containing troops distributed in strategic places to control the passage of smugglers' boats. [end recording]

However, the truth is that the border is totally unguarded.

[Begin unidentified El Congal resident] It is well known that Colombia has abandoned the borders completely. [end recording]

The last dynamite shipment seizure took place a year ago on the Mira river, an hour from the port of Tumaco. At least 1,100 kg of dynamite were seized, but no traffickers were arrested.

Pepes Group Murders Six Youths in El Retiro

PA1102211793 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0300 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Report by Liba Rina Giraldo]

[Text] Six youths were murdered on 10 February in El Retiro, Antioquia, as the war within the Medellin Cartel continues. The group known as Persecuted by Pablo Escobar [Pepes] claimed responsibility for the murder of six youths at a gas station in the La Fe Shopping Center in El Retiro municipality.

The young men arrived together to fill up their motorcycles. They were being followed by 15 men in several cars who approached them and summarily shot them. All that was heard during the shooting was that they were being killed for being friends with Pablo Escobar.

Juan Carlos Gallego, Freddy Alberto Rios, Ivan Dario Bedoya, Alexander Marin, Santiago Andres Velez, and Juan Carlos de Isaza were the victims. The bodies of these new Pepes victims are still at the morgue in El Retiro. The authorities are investigating their backgrounds.

Commentary On U.S. Political Parties

PA1202041093 Santa Fe de Bogota EL NUEVO SIGLO in Spanish 8 Feb 93 p 5a

[Commentary by Carlos Monroy Reyes: "A Giant In Good Health"]

[Text] There is no truth to the story of the Yankee Democrat being similar to the Colombian Liberal, or of the Republican being similar to the Colombian Conservative. That is, unless the similarity lies in the fact that political parties sometimes adopt the ideological positions of their adversaries.

In North America, political parties differ in character. Both parties have been waging war against each other since independence. Although this war has sometimes turned bitter, most of the time it has been peaceful and subdued.

Weakness has, for the most part, been the dominant trait of the Democrats. They have been forced to bare this cross as a result of fundamental mistakes made by Democratic presidents.

The most significant example of weakness involved the Yalta Conference. President Roosevelt gave a large portion of everything the Allies had won during the Second World War to the Communists, led by the dictatorial and sinister Stalin.

What can we say about John F. Kennedy, one of the most charismatic of all the Democratic presidents, and the famous Bay of Pigs blunder that ensured the survival of the Fidel Castro dictatorship? A dictatorship that only now, old and wrinkled, would seem to be reaching the end of its road.

Historically, there is nothing positive that can be said about Carter on account of his being the embodiment of weakness. A weakness that allowed the great North American nation to be constantly humiliated by mediocre nations such as Iran.

One only has to reminisce to realize that by nature, Democrats have never been strong. Neither has their temperament been favorable to the progressive continuity of such a great nation. No one can doubt, however, the success behind this nation's election process. During such times, any independent traveler, regardless of nationality, can travel without restriction through this peaceful nation. It is a nation that guarantees that individuals may exercise their every right in a colorful election process. This process is characterized by various safeguards, by sufficient controls, by the transfer of ideas, and by programs that are easily understood. What is brazenly absent is the so called "North American Revolution," predetermined by the Europeans decades ago. The United States does not provide fertile ground for revolts, uprisings, or subversions. Supporters of the elephant and supporters of the donkey do not want to modify their Constitution. They do not want to redirect their lives toward new forms of conduct or social organization. On this issue, the Democrats and the Republicans share the same belief.

Someone once wrote: "to travel through the United States is to discover a giant enjoying good health, endowed with muscles of steel, and with the brashness of a well-to-do rancher with no bodily injuries." The past presidential elections attests to this quote.

It is not yet known if Clinton will turn out to be another example of everything the Democrats have turned out to be, or if the explosive world situation will transform him into a president with the courage to fight corruption, violence, and other injustices that dominate the universe.

Paraguay

Rodriguez Briefed on Colorado Faction Positions

PY1102172593 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 11 Feb 93 p 7

[Text] The positions of the four internal movements involved in the conflict that has immobilized the National Republican Association [Colorado Party] were handed to President Andres Rodriguez last night. The document was handed to the president by the mediating committee that the executive branch created on 5 February to seek a solution to his party's crisis.

Rodriguez was visited at his home by Foreign Minister Alexis Frutos Vaesken, Justice and Labor Minister Oscar Paciello, [former Education Minister] Dionisio Gonzalez Torres, and presidency Secretary General Miguel Angel Gonzalez Casabianca, who make up the mediation committee.

The mediators did not make known what steps would be taken now to get the party out of its crisis, but it is possible that there will be a general meeting among the executive branch, the mediating committee, and the four internal movements. During the afternoon of 10 February the mediating committee first met at the home of Gonzalez Torres and then headed for the home of the president. Rodriguez now officially knows the positions of the four movements and it is presumed that he will try to restore order within the Colorado Party.

Although nothing was learned of the document that was handed to Rodriguez, the positions of the movements with the greatest differences are known.

It is known that the [Juan Carlos] Wasmosy-[Angel Roberto] Seifart movement wants the 27 December elections annulled, that the presidential and vice presidential candidates should give up their aspirations, and that a call be made for another round of internal elections with new presidential and vice presidential hopefuls.

The [Luis Maria] Argana-[Juan Bautista] Ybanez movement wants the Constitution, election laws, and sovereignty of Colorado Party members respected, the approval of the results of the 27 December elections, and the negotiation of the power base with the other Colorado Party movements.

Ibanez Says Proposal 'Valid and Worthy'

PY1102164593 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 11 Feb 93 p 7

[Text] Juan Bautista Ybanez, the running mate of [Colorado Party pre-candidate Luis Maria] Argana for the presidency of the Republic, yesterday deemed opportune the publication of a document containing the guidelines for a solution to the Colorado Party internal crisis which was allegedly proposed by the "Argana" ticket to the mediating commission established by [President Andres] Rodriguez on 8 February. Ybanez said the document was authentic and noted that its contents "are valid and worthy proposals."

One of the basic proposals to solve the Colorado Party internal crisis mentioned in the document is the recognition of the victory of the Argana-Ybanez ticket which promises not to try military men involved in acts of corruption before next 15 August, among other points. It is said that Argana submitted the proposal to the mediating commission during the meeting held last Monday at the home of Dionisio Gonzalez Torres, one of the members of the negotiating commission.

Ybanez was consulted yesterday at noon as he was leaving a meeting at Argana's home about the publication of the document. He stated: "I think it is a good thing the document was published. I do not know the origin of this document but it contains valid and worthy proposals."

When asked if he agreed with the promise not to try the military men, Ybanez said that the document "does not say that much." However, he noted that the "Argana" ticket will abide by the Constitution. He said: "The citizenry should rest assured that we will work within the framework of the Constitution. This is what we promise the citizenry, and we are obviously not going to protect anybody or unjustly try anybody."

Ybanez explained that he learned about the document a few weeks ago, when it was proposed during a negotiation to solve the Colorado Party crisis and that it was proposed by the [Juan Carlos] "Wasmosy" ticket. Ybanez commented: "I think this is not a new proposal. I believe the document was drafted some time before the last series of negotiations. I think it must have been submitted during a previous negotiation."

Asked why an agreement was not reached based on the proposals of the document during previous negotiations, Ybanez answered that, despite a partial accord, no agreement was reached because the "Wasmosy" ticket requested that Ybanez be excluded from the vice presidency. Ybanez said: "I spoke with my movement and the proposal was categorically rejected, this is why I believe the document was drafted some time before this last negotiation."

Diogenes Martinez, legal representative of the Argana-Ybanez ticket, categorically denied that the published document was submitted by this ticket. Martinez later told Radio Nanduti, after making his denial, that some of the proposals allow for a political agreement.

The second point of the document published by ABC COLOR yesterday states: "The candidate (Argana) will not promote any kind of judgment or trial against acting

or retired military men for any historical events that occur before 15 August 1993. It is therefore understood that any political or socio-economic event that took place prior to this date will be considered closed."

The publication of this document yesterday generated divided opinions within the "Argana" ticket. Some believed in the authenticity of the document and even regard the proposals as auspicious, while others deny its authenticity and say that this is the first time that they have heard about it.

PDC, Humanist Party, Others Create Alliance

PY1002200093 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 10 Feb 93 p 6

[Text] A new political alliance called the Democratic and Social Coalition [Concertacion Democratica y Social] was created on 9 February during a meeting that included representatives from the Christian Democratic Party [PDC], the Humanist Party, and the Paraguayan Communist Party, and from the Asuncion for All Movement, 26 May Movement, and the Rafael Franco Multi-Sectorial Movement of the PRF [Revolutionary Febrerista Party]. Ricardo Canese is the alliance's presidential hopeful.

According to Canese, the new alliance will be made official this week when it registers with the Central Electoral Board with the guarantee of legally registered parties such as the PDC and the Humanist Party.

Canese also explained that one of the alliance's main objectives is to achieve a government based on the legitimate power that is granted by the ballot boxes, in contrast to the power that wants to be imposed through the force of money. In this respect, he indicated that both the [Juan Carlos] Wasmosy-[Angel Roberto] Seifart faction [of the Colorado Party] and the National Encounter are based on their economic power.

Canese said: "The National Encounter is a businessmen's movement that uses its economic power in contracting political operators, vehicles, publicity, and marketing [preceding word in English], and we cannot compete with that kind of power. Therefore, we cannot reach any type of agreement due to the fact that money separates us."

PLRA Issues Communique on Civilian-Military Dialogue

PY1202125193 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 11 Feb 93 p 8

[Text] The Authentic Radical Liberal Party (PLRA) released a communique yesterday signed by its president, Juan Manuel Benitez Florentin, on Interior Minister Hugo Estigarribia Elizeche's statements. Estigarribia had announced the suspension of the civilian-military dialogue, "under the pretext of alleged aggression by the presidential candidates against the military men who participated in the Colorado Party parade."

The communique's first point states that PLRA presidential candidate Domingo Laino and the other presidential hopefuls have in no way made the statements in an attempt to create more conflicts and tensions at this difficult and worrisome time. It adds that the statements were made as a way to contribute to the consolidation of the transition process to democracy.

The communique states: "Everyone knows that a professional military force is a pillar of a political democracy engaged in the defense of the fatherland. It must not be submitted to any political party because the defense of the territory is not a patrimony of any party but of the entire people."

It says that referring to the "dignification of the Armed Forces" as part of the process that began with the 2-3 February [1989, date of the coup] proclamation, the PLRA understood that to meet this objective the Armed Forces must not be subjected to any political party because "the dignity of a soldier is linked to the role he plays as a professional, irrespective of any political party."

The communique states that this process to dignify the Armed Forces has made progress and also has moved back. "The Armed Forces currently show more willingness to concentrate on their own affairs. We are, however, going through a period of changes and the Armed Forces must overcome a stage in which the institution was subject to a totalitarian system under which there were no differences between the party and the state. Consequently, all state institutions, including the Armed Forces, were subject to a political party."

The communique states the wish to establish a new situation under the new international context. "This new situation implies a military force embodied in its professional role designed to safeguard the national sovereignty."

It says that "the Colorado Party's internal crisis is jeopardizing the creation of a professional military force that can play an appropriate role under the new regional and international context. This was proven by the presence of soldiers in an official event sponsored by the Colorado Party."

It concludes that the PLRA considers that the statements by the presidential candidates do not seek to attack but to defend the military institution, and they do not have to be used as a pretext to suspend a possible civilian-military dialogue.

Interior Ministry Secretary General Installed

PY1002141893 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 10 Feb 93 p 4

[Excerpt] Enrique Riera Escudero was installed on 9 February as secretary general of the Interior Ministry. During the ceremony, the new public official defended the young people who were orchestrated for so many years in Paraguay. He promised that the ministry will

work within the institutional framework that democracy demands from state organizations. Thus, it will stop the persecution of fellow Paraguayans.

Riera was installed by Interior Minister Hugo Estigarribia Elizeche. The new secretary general replaces lawyer Ruben Villalba Cataldi, who was promoted last week to vice minister of the Interior Ministry. [passage omitted]

Relations With Taiwan 'More Convenient' Than With PRC

PY1202123193 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 11 Feb 93 p 21

[Text] A high-ranking Foreign Ministry source on 10 February maintained that at this time it is more convenient for Paraguay to have relations with Taiwan rather than Communist China, and he highlighted the fact that Taiwan is capable of offering the necessary capital to help our country industrialize.

The other China can only offer its very large market, to which Asuncion cannot have access due to the lack of sufficient production.

The same source, who did not want to be identified, indicated that President Andres Rodriguez' government has never considered the possibility of seeking diplomatic relations with Beijing, instead he has demonstrated an interest in increasing the links that already exist with Taiwan.

This position was strengthened by the report that originated in Taipei and that was transmitted by a news agency indicating that Taiwan fears that Paraguay will seek a diplomatic relationship with Communist China, thus the Taipei Government quickly approved a $10 million line of credit for an iron alloy industry to be installed in Asuncion. This line of credit has the purpose of increasing the confidence between the two countries, and it is also a form of persuasion for Paraguay not to change its policy toward Taiwan.

The diplomatic source indicated that, comparatively, it is more convenient for Paraguayan interests to have relations with Taiwan because of its high degree of industrialization and because it is capable of offering us capital to shore up the economic processes that lack important lines of credit.

In this respect, he mentioned the case of the $10 million for the iron alloy project, and also $20 million for the textile industry.

He indicated that while Taipei can give Paraguay everything it needs, Beijing can only offer its very large market, to which it will be impossible to have access with such a small infrastructure as ours.

The Foreign Ministry source stressed that "Taiwan is the best option, but if relations do not exist today with Communist China it is not due to ideological reasons, it is due to purely economic reasons."

Peru

Government Reschedules Debt to U.S.

PY1202130493 Lima EL PERUANO in Spanish 28 Jan 93 p A3

[Text] Consolidating the Peruvian financial reinstatement in multilateral organizations, Economy Minister Jorge Camet Dickman signed an agreement on 27 January with the Agency for International Development (AID), which allows the Peruvian Government to reschedule a $152 million bilateral debt to the U.S. Government.

The minister also confirmed that the renegotiation of the foreign debt with private banks will begin in April. In the third week in March, the debt with the Paris Club—which is comprised of the Peruvian creditor countries—will be refinanced on more favorable terms.

Camet also reported on his trip to Washington at the beginning of February. There, he will meet the leaders of the second Support Group (Japan and the United States) to obtain a $410 million loan to be allocated for the 1993 balance of payments.

Sanctions Are Suspended

The Implementation Agreement [Convenio de Ejecucion]—which was signed by AID Director in Lima George Wachtenheim; Adolfo Zulueta, Economy and Finance Ministry director for public credit; and Minister Camet—reprograms the debt for 20 years within the framework of the negotiations conducted by Peru at the Paris Club in September 1991 and the bilateral agreement signed with the U.S. Government in August 1992.

The rescheduling of these debts contracted with or guaranteed by AID include a 10-year grace period. The commercial debt was rescheduled for 15 years with an eight-year grace period. Therefore, the first payment on the commercial debt's principal will fall due in November 2002 and that of the concessional debt [deuda concesional] in November 2000.

In addition, the agreement establishes that the $12 million equivalent to the interest resulting from the reprogramming, which was due between October 1991 and December 1992, will be paid in five years beginning this year.

It must be emphasized that the bilateral agreement that has been signed with the United States may result in the suspension of the sanctions established by the U.S. Government on countries that are late in honoring their debts. These sanctions are contemplated in Amendments 620-Q and Brooke-Alexander. Therefore, new loans will be granted to Peru through this agreement.

After thanking on behalf of the Peruvian Government for the support granted by AID and the U.S. Government, Minister Camet pointed out that this new agreement is an example of support given to the economic program and the structural reforms being implemented by President Fujimori.

Camet said the debt with the commercial banks, which totals more than $5.5 billion, will be renegotiated in April. Regarding the Support Group, Camet said Japan and the United States will contribute approximately 50 percent of the overall amount ($410 million) required to set off our balance of payments.

Swiss Government Condones Peruvian Debt

PA1102151393 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 11 Feb 92

[Text] The Swiss Government has condoned Peru's debt for 18.5 million Swiss francs, approximately $12.3 million; and the agreement was signed by Economy Minister Jorge Camet and Swiss Ambassador Marcus Kaiser. The debt was contracted between 1976 and 1983 and the Swiss Government's loans were used in the livestock and fishing sectors; and the plans yielded the expected results.

Ambassador Kaiser said his government decided to condone the debt because it hopes Peru will return to the international financial system.

[Begin Kaiser recording] Switzerland wants to help Peru return to the international financial community with this donation. The current government has sought to achieve this goal in a coherent way and by making large sacrifices. We also wish to strengthen the ties of friendship between the two countries. [end recording]

Economy Minister Camet thanked the Swiss Government on behalf of the Peruvian people.

[Begin recording] [Camet] I wish to thank the ambassador on behalf of the government, particularly the Peruvian people, who will receive the benefits of this support. I want you to express our deep gratitude to you country. This is an important gesture. I am not talking about the magnitude, I am talking about the gesture and your attitude. Thank you.

[Kaiser] Very well. [end recording]

Venezuela

CSE, Senate Commission Review Electoral Law Reforms

PA1102231893 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 2350 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Report by Jose Marcano]

[Text] The Supreme Electoral Council [CSE] and the Senate Domestic Policies Commission have agreed that electoral law reform must be carried out in two phases. The first should involve short-term modifications and the second should deal with issues that can wait.

CSE President Isidro Morales Paul and Commission Chairman Aristides Beujon have exchanged views on the electoral law modifications and stated the short-term reforms include increasing the number of independent CSE members, modernizing the electoral process, and storing used ballots for a recommended period.

[Begin recording] [Morales] I am very encouraged by the Senate Commission's receptive attitude toward my proposals. I believe they accept honest guidance concerning the electoral reforms, meaning the process must not be politicized because one cannot be judge and jury in a case. That is essentially the basis of the reforms we have proposed.

[Beujon] The reforms to turn the CSE into an electoral court must be analyzed in depth. Dr. Morales Paul has just proposed—I believe I am getting ahead of the Commission's decision—that the electoral registry be handled by registrars, courts, and juries. That is the essence of the struggle waged in Venezuela to separate this process from the judicial and the executive branches and to create a truly and authentically autonomous electoral organization. [end recording]

The Senate Domestic Policies Commission is continuing its review of the proposed electoral law reforms before the issue is turned over to a higher chamber and eventually sent to the Chamber of Deputies.